



**The Honorable Terry Gerratana and Matthew Ritter**

Co-Chairs, Public Health Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

February 22, 2016

**RE: U.S. Pain Supports SB 129, An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage for Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics**

Dear Senators Gerratana and Ritter,

U.S. Pain Foundation is a nonprofit organization based out of Connecticut. The organization was created by people with pain for people with pain. Our mission is to educate, connect, inform and empower those living with chronic pain while advocating on behalf of the entire pain community. U.S. Pain is urging the Public Health Committee vote in favor of SB 129 as abuse-deterrent formularies present a step forward in removing the problematic effect of opioid use and thus its appeal for abuse.

With over 100 million Americans living with some form of chronic, rare or complex pain condition, Connecticut has the opportunity to take a proactive approach when it comes to the fine balance of providing fair access of treatment to legitimate pain patients while combating abuse and misuse of opioids. Widespread chronic pain and increasing prescription opioid abuse are both realities that affect patient, physicians and our society. U.S. Pain works daily to support and advocate for the needs of those living with chronic pain to have access to the medications their doctors prescribe. We also work to make sure those who would, unfortunately, choose to abuse these treatments can't do so through education and awareness efforts. We support restricting access to those who are abusing or have addiction disorder while keeping those who are in compliance away from any penalty or stigma.

Through the creation of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesics, such technology can prevent people from becoming addicted while allowing those who suffer from pain and rely on this type of modality for relief to benefit from the medicinal properties of these medications. U.S. Pain understands that treating chronic pain can be a complex process and one that requires time, energy and trial and error before finding a treatment plan that works to provide some relief. Patients should not have to be additionally overburdened with paying an exorbitant amount of dollars for treatment that works for their condition(s). That is why U.S. Pain supports SB 129 as it seeks to require health insurance plans to cover at least one form of abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic.

This proposed legislation will take a step towards being a more proactive state when seeking to limit the number of misuse and abuse cases while also allowing legitimate pain patients to receive medication that allows them to function despite living with chronic pain on a daily basis.

On behalf of U.S. Pain Foundation I ask that you support SB 129 for Connecticut pain patients. The state has been leading the way for others in the nation to follow suit when it comes to beneficial legislation for the pain patient. I hope the Public Health Committee will continue that progressive trend and move SB 129 forward. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

*Shaina Smith*

Shaina Smith, Director of State Advocacy & Alliance Development  
U.S. Pain Foundation

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CC: Joseph Crisco, Vice Chair, Emmett Riley, Vice Chair

Members: Joe Markley, Prasad Srinivasan, Al Adinolfi, David Alexander, Andre Baker, Eric Berthel, Whit Betts, Vincent Candelora, Christie Carpino, Theresa Conroy, Michelle Cook, Mike Demicco, Henry Genga, Robert Kane, Ted Kennedy, Kathleen McCarty, Marilyn Moore, Jason Perillo, Kevin Ryan, Peggy Sayers, Sean Scanlon, Peter Tercyak, Fred Wilms, David Zoni.

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