Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Suite 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Mike Burke and I am a resident of Andover, CT. I am writing to you today in support of S.B. 129: An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage For Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics. In light of the growing epidemic of opioid abuse in Connecticut, this bill will give health care providers an additional option for treating chronic pain while potentially preventing patients from becoming addicted to the medication. Health care providers in Connecticut need as many options as is possible to treat their patients' pain safely and effectively.

For the last four years, I have worked for a highly ethical, accredited compounding pharmacy which specializes in producing topically applied prescription analgesics for chronic pain. We are licensed in the State of CT and have served many local health care providers and their patients. Many providers have shared how our formulations have improved their patients' quality of life. By effectively changing the route of administration so as to limit patients' systemic exposure to these drugs, compounding pharmacies produce inherently abuse-deterring, cost-effective alternatives to the powerful opioids so many patients have become addicted to.

Since the drug formulations produced by compounding pharmacies provide another important option for physicians and their patients, I'm writing to you today to ask you to give thoughtful consideration to include language in S.B. 129 that would be inclusive to compounded pain medications. I urge you to give CT residents suffering from chronic pain as many options as possible to keep from becoming addicted to their medication.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike Burke