



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**MEMBER**  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## Testimony

### ***In Support of Raised S.B. 353 An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse and Raised S.B. 352 An Act Concerning Prescriptions for and the Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists***

**Public Health Committee  
March 7, 2016**

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

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to offer my testimony in support of Raised S.B. 353 An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse and Raised S.B. 352 An Act Concerning Prescriptions for and the Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists.

In 2015, Opioid addiction claimed more than 380 lives in Connecticut - that's on average more than one person dying everyday in our state from an opioid overdose. In January I had the opportunity to meet with parents whose children were addicted to opiates, some were in recovery and in some cases, they had lost their children to overdose. Their stories were heartbreaking and brought to life how opioid abuse is a complex issue with multiple intervention points and actions needed to effectively address it.

SB353 "An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse," will enable all key stakeholders to work together to develop the holistic approach needed to address this multi-faceted issue—from prescribing, intervention, treatment and recovery support. By requiring that each component of the plan be evidence-based, data-driven, sustainable, and responsive, SB353 will result in an actionable and results-oriented plan that will help Connecticut lead on helping to turn the tide on the growing epidemic.

While the work of the Council is underway, we can take further action to prevent overdoses by broadening the availability of naloxone (narcax). Doing this won't solve the opioid abuse problem, but it will save lives. SB352 "An Act Concerning Prescriptions for and the Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists" will expand access to live saving Narcan by allowing anyone to purchase and administer it "over the counter", without a prescription.

SB353 and SB352 will have a positive impact on savings lives. As a legislature, there is nothing more important that we can do in serving the residents of this state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Devlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Laura Devlin