



Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Testimony Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
March 28, 2016

Senate Bill 5: An Act Establishing a Surcharge On the Manufacture and Distribution of Opioids and Funding for Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Berger and members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee, we represent the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which includes the majority of licensed veterinarians in the state of Connecticut. While we appreciate the intent of Senate Bill 5 we have some grave concerns regarding the affect upon our veterinary patients.

Any taxation on the manufacturing or distribution of medications will result in an increased cost of these medications at a time when medication costs are already skyrocketing. Although opioids are used in very limited amounts in veterinary medicine, compared to human medicine, they are used in cases where nothing else will control pain adequately in our patients. If medications become cost prohibitive, our clients may not be able to afford them, which would impact the quality of life for these animals due to pain and perhaps, ultimately, their owners may decide on humane euthanasia.

While the CVMA appreciates the intent of this legislation, we would ask that you not increase medication costs at a time when they are already high.