State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5077
General Law Committee
February 7, 2017

Chairmen Leone, Witkos and Baram, Ranking Member Smith and Members of the General Law Committee, we would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill 5077: AAC The Return Of Unused Prescription Drugs to Pharmacies.**

This aim of this bill is to allow for the proper disposal of unused prescription drugs by pharmacies. Currently, prescription drug drop boxes in Connecticut are located in police stations; certain people are uncomfortable to enter the police station and dispose of unused prescription drugs, mainly narcotics, out of a fear or apprehension.

The proposal before you would require police to collect and transport all collected medications back to the police station, maintaining the chain of custody. This action would likely not make pharmacies any more of a target then they already are, given the nature of the narcotics they already carry on a daily basis.

The final rule on the Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in September of 2014 expanded the authority of authorized hospitals/clinics and retail pharmacies to voluntarily maintain collection receptacles. These receptacles would still be subject to regulation and protections under the law. This bill will merely give pharmacies the option to participate as a collection site, not require it, and would likely help to get more prescription drugs off the street from folks who would otherwise feel uncomfortable returning them to the police directly.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reported that Americans participating in the DEA's tenth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on September 27, 2014, turned in 617,150 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at 5,495 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. This brought the total amount of drugs collected in four years to 4,823,251 pounds, or 2,411 tons. The April 2014 collection was the largest since the establishment of the National Prescription Take-Back initiative.

We urge the General Law Committee to pass House Bill Number 5077 out of Committee, giving it a chance to become law. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Rutigliano
State Representative, 123rd District

Brenda Kupchick
State Representative, 132nd District