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**Connecticut State Medical Society on
Senate Bill 442 An Act Prohibiting Predatory Pricing of Pharmaceuticals
And
Senate Bill 445 An Act Concerning Pharmaceutical Price Transparency
Presented to the Public Health Committee
March 7, 2017**

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the organizations listed below, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on **Senate Bill 442 An Act Prohibiting Predatory Pricing of Pharmaceuticals** and **Senate Bill 445 An Act Concerning Pharmaceutical Price Transparency**. These proposed bills will seek to amend state statute to prevent the predatory pricing of pharmaceuticals and establish disclosures and transparencies in pharmaceutical pricing respectively. CSMS supports the intent of these proposed bills and welcomes the opportunity to work with committee members to develop details.

Pharmaceutical spending in the United States is growing at an unprecedented rate. Annual increases in double digit percentage points have become the unfortunate norm. Furthermore, no medication from brand-name to generic drugs has been immune to dramatic increases. Yet, while these prices increase dramatically, drug companies continue to report record profits.

We are all aware of those drug price hikes grabbing national headlines, such as HIV medications, EpiPens, naloxone, and others. However, other common, everyday medications have also been affected by these price increases, including many antibiotics, asthma and acne medications. These increased prices have not garnered the same level of attention, but they have forced many patients to make difficult decisions regarding their ability to afford these medications. This has led to an increase in non-adherence to drug regimens.

Although efforts must be made at the Federal level as well to address this issue, Connecticut can and should take steps to enact legislation to bring transparency to drug pricing and prohibit unwarranted increases of prescription drugs.

Much work needs to be done to develop the proposals before you today. CSMS stands ready to work with this committee, policymakers and other stakeholders to address this issue in Connecticut.

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