

Testimony re: HB 6543, AN ACT PERMITTING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE TOBACCO CESSATION PRODUCTS

Dear Chairman Abrams and Chairman Steinberg; Senator Somers and Representative Petit, and members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Lisa Bragaw. I am a pharmacist at Simply Pharmacy in Waterford, CT and Center for Hospice Care in Norwich, CT.

I am writing in ***strong support*** of HB 6543, An Act Permitting Pharmacists to Prescribe Tobacco Cessation Products.

Tobacco use remains a major public health problem and therefore HB 6543 seems to me to be a “no-brainer.” Pharmacists are deeply qualified and trained healthcare professionals with special expertise in drug effects and interactions; pharmacies are part of the local community, and as members of the community they have exceptional availability to patients, including being available nights, weekends and holidays; and, importantly, patients visit pharmacies far more often than they visit their physician. As a hospice pharmacist, I see far too many people dying from tobacco-related illnesses. As a community pharmacist, I am in a position to make a positive impact on patient health and reducing health care costs related to tobacco-related illnesses.

In other states, pharmacists have been providing tobacco cessation products for over 15 years without any problems.

The fact is that pharmacists can have a huge, positive impact in helping people to quit tobacco and I urge you to support HB 6543.

Thank you,
Lisa Bragaw, PharmD
Niantic, CT