

Questions for the Consumer Protection Commissioner Nominee

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Commissioner of Consumer Protection ([CGS §§ 21a-1 & -11](#))

The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner administers a regulatory agency that, among other things:

1. investigates consumer complaints about unfair or deceptive trade practices;
2. licenses certain professionals and tradespeople;
3. oversees the sale of alcoholic beverages;
4. works to prevent the sale of adulterated or contaminated food;
5. oversees and regulates the recreational cannabis industry;
6. regulates the distribution of prescription drugs, including medical marijuana; and
7. implements and administers the state's gaming laws.

Questions

1. How has your background and previous experience prepared you for this role?
2. What will be your top priorities for the agency during your tenure?
3. DCP administers the state's prescription drug monitoring program. Are there aspects of the program that you would like to see changed and, if so, in what way?

4. The state is facing a rising number of opioid-related deaths. Are there further restrictions that can be placed on the pharmacy industry or others to prevent these deaths?
5. How do you feel that the implementation of the adult-use cannabis law has gone? What changes do you think are needed to the law, if any?
6. Are there issues specifically impacting youth that you think DCP needs to focus on more?
7. What parts of food and consumables safety enforcement do you think DCP needs to prioritize?
8. What are your views on legalized gaming and its impact on the state? Do you think the current regulatory process has sufficient consumer protections built in?
9. What is your opinion of the consumer protections enacted in the 2021 gaming expansion act (e.g., the voluntary self-exclusion program, advertising restrictions, and credit and debit card limitations)?
10. Are there changes to the state's liquor laws that you would like to see?
11. Some have suggested that Connecticut's three-tier alcohol distribution system, adopted after the repeal of Prohibition, is outdated and does not serve consumers well. Do you think the three-tier system is still needed to protect consumers?
12. We regularly hear about a shortage of tradespeople in the state. What role do Connecticut's occupational licensing and apprenticeship requirements play? What are the challenges of having reciprocity agreements with other states?

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