



ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM TONG
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony Concerning Senate Bill No. 227,
An Act Concerning Prescription Drugs and Over-The-Counter Diet Pills and Supplements
General Law Committee
February 23, 2026**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding S.B. No. 227, which proposes new safeguards to restrict minors' access to certain dietary supplements and other products advertised to promote weight loss and makes important changes to protect providers of reproductive and transgender health care in Connecticut.

Section 1 of this bill, which would restrict minors' access to certain products advertised to promote weight loss or build muscle, addresses an important issue which warrants more attention given a recent rise in disordered eating and possible association with body image content on social media. This is a growing problem: the rise of obesity combined with the explosion of GLP-1 drugs marketed direct to consumers have created a thriving market for ineffective and unsafe products bearing exaggerated claims. In December, our Office wrote to Meta demanding that it better enforce its own policies about advertising unregulated weight loss drugs on Facebook and Instagram.¹ In 2025, we also took action against sellers of non-FDA approved compounded GLP-1 weight loss drugs.² Adolescents and young people are particularly susceptible both to the messages they see online and the marketing of diet products and supplements which often make exaggerated claims, avoid effective regulation, and are prone to misuse—a dangerous combination. For these reasons, we appreciate the work of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity on this topic and look forward to partnering as this work evolves.

Sections 2-5 make necessary changes to protect Connecticut health care providers

The Office of the Attorney General strongly recommends that the Committee move forward with these important provisions because the Trump administration as well as anti-abortion and anti-transgender health care states continue to attack providers who support patients seeking access to health care that is safe and legal in Connecticut.

The attacks have increased in severity and specifically target health care that is lawful in Connecticut. Anti-access states seek to criminally prosecute, extradite, impose liability on, confuse, and intimidate providers. This bill extends safeguards for Connecticut health care providers prescribing medication for reproductive and transgender health care services that are legal in this state.

In 2022, Connecticut was the first state in the nation to pass a “shield law” in anticipation of the ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned decades of precedent holding that the United States Constitution protects individuals' rights to control their own bodies, including the choice to have an abortion. Anticipating similar attacks on

¹ [Attorney General William Tong Pushes Meta to Act on Misleading AI Weight Loss Ads](#)

² [Attorney General Tong Announces New Developments in Crackdown on Bootleg GLP-1 Weight Loss Drugs](#)



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individuals seeking other types of reproductive health care and on transgender individuals seeking medical care, Connecticut included a broad definition of reproductive health care services that included transgender health care services.

Shield laws, like Connecticut's, protect providers from out-of-state attacks. Among other protections, shield laws protect providers by prohibiting extradition, prohibiting enforcement of out of state judgments, prohibiting the use of state resources in order to investigate or prosecute providers that offer health care that is legal in Connecticut, and prohibiting licensure denial or discipline when a provider provides health care that is legal in Connecticut. Shield laws also protect patients by prohibiting the sharing of sensitive health information. Shield laws have proved essential for protecting providers and patients in access states.

Anti-access states, however, continue to attack providers. Texas obtained a \$100,000 judgment against a New York doctor for sending mifepristone, a safe and legal abortion inducing drug, to a Texas woman. *See Texas v. Carpenter*, Docket No. 471-08943-2024 (Dec. 12, 2024). Texas then tried to enforce that judgment in New York, but New York's shield law protected the doctor.³ Louisiana tried to extradite a California doctor for providing abortion care; California's Governor refused by invoking California's shield law to protect the doctor.⁴

Providers also face attacks from the Trump administration. President Trump issued executive orders seeking to eliminate transgender health care for adolescents and erase any recognition of transgender individuals.⁵ In furtherance of those orders, the Department of Justice issued more than 20 subpoenas nationwide to doctors and clinics that provide transgender health care.⁶ Those subpoenas demand broad swaths of information about providers and patients. In response, Connecticut joined a coalition of states to sue the President and his Department of Justice and have asked a federal court to declare that providing legal transgender health care does not violate federal law.⁷ These are just a few

³ State Court Reporter, *New York's Abortion Shield Law Survives First Challenge by Texas*, Alicia Bannon, Nov. 6, 2025, <https://statecourtreport.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/new-yorks-abortion-shield-law-survives-first-challenge-texas> (last visited Feb. 19, 2026).

⁴ California State Portal, *Governor Newsom rejects Louisiana's attempt to extradite California doctor for providing abortion care*, Jan. 14, 2026, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2026/01/14/governor-newsom-rejects-louisianas-attempt-to-extradite-california-doctor-for-providing-abortion-care/> (last visited Feb. 19, 2026).

⁵ See Executive Order No. 14,168, *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government*, 90 Fed. Reg. 8615 (Jan. 20, 2025); Executive Order No. 14,187, *Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation*, 90 Fed. Reg. 8771 (Jan. 28, 2025).

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs, *Department of Justice Subpoenas Doctors and Clinics Involved in Performing Transgender Medical Procedures on Children*, July 9, 2025, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-subpoenas-doctors-and-clinics-involved-performing-transgender-medical> (last visited Feb. 19, 2026).

⁷ *See, Mass. v. Trump*, 1:25-cv-12162.



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examples of the relentless attacks that providers face for doing their jobs as providers of legal, safe, and effective reproductive and transgender health care.

S.B. No. 227 Sections 2-5 make important changes to Connecticut's shield law by shoring up protections for providers that prescribe safe and legal medications for reproductive and transgender health care.

Sections 2-5 allow a provider to prescribe reproductive and/or transgender health care medications by listing the name and address of the prescribing and dispensing health care practice or facility instead of the name and signature of the prescribing practitioner. Permitting health care providers to use the name and address of their health care practice or facility eliminates one avenue that could be used by anti-access states and the Trump administration to easily identify targets. That extra layer of anonymity offers protection and comfort for those who continue to offer reproductive and transgender health care services that remain legal in Connecticut, despite the risk of attack from outside the state. The changes mirror lessons learned from other states with shield laws. For example, in 2025 California amended its shield law by permitting health care providers to prescribe abortion care medication to patients anonymously.⁸ As anti-access states continue to attack, access states continue to adapt and protect.

Anti-access states and the Trump administration demonstrate an unambiguous attack on women, transgender individuals, and the medical professionals that provide safe, effective, and legal health care. The Office of the Attorney General rejects those efforts. We seek to protect providers of reproductive and transgender health care to the fullest extent possible.

For additional information, please contact Nate Kalechman, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Office of the Attorney General at Nathan.Kalechman@ct.gov

⁸ California State Portal, *Governor Newsom signs new landmark laws to protect reproductive freedom, patient privacy amid Trump's war on women*, Sep. 26, 2025, <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/09/26/governor-newsom-signs-new-landmark-laws-to-protect-reproductive-freedom-patient-privacy-amid-trumps-war-on-women/> (last visited Feb. 19, 2026).