



Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

HB 5018 AN ACT CONCERNING Health Care Cost Growth in Connecticut

SB 328 AN ACT CONCERNING Health Care Cost Growth Benchmarks, Canadian Drug

Re-Importation, Stop-Loss Insurance and Reinsurance

Chairman Lesser, Chairman Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

I would like to thank you for bringing these important matters to this forum. I am offering testimony on **HB 5018** and **SB 328**. My name is David Benoit. I am a pharmacist and for over twenty years, I have worked in the business of independent community pharmacy at Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation, a group purchasing organization. Currently, we service and support 111 independent community pharmacies in CT as a part of the 244 in all of New England.

As the committee begins to look into the potential opportunity of importing pharmaceutical products from Canada, there are some important things to consider: Canadian manufacturers serve a market of approximately 25 million Canadians. They do not have the infrastructure to meet U.S. demand should it exist. Wholesalers of pharmaceutical products participation would be voluntary, as they would experience a number of new costs; the sampling and testing requirements are ludicrous. If the supply chain is secure and the drugs are manufactured according to FDA guidelines and standards, what would they accomplish? Additionally, Canadian brands pricing is set by the Canadian government. After a short period of exclusivity, Canada forces manufacturers to out-license to generic competition. Finally, the Canadian generic market lacks vigorous competition. I am uncertain that there would be any price advantages to be gained here.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

David Benoit, MHP, RPh
Vice President, Patient Care Services
Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation

Northeast Pharmacy Service Corporation

1661 Worcester Road Suite 405 Framingham, MA 01701-5401

800/532.3742 508/875.1866 F: 508/875.6108