



## Testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly's Insurance and Real Estate Committee

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Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for receiving my testimony today.

I am Christina Adams from Canada, where I serve as the Chief Pharmacy Officer for the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists. A non-profit organization, CSHP represents pharmacy professionals working in hospitals to improve patient care by safe and effective medication use. I am also a practicing pharmacist.

As Canadians, we deeply value our relationship with our American neighbours, friends and allies. We work closely with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and are sympathetic to the challenges that American patients face in accessing affordable medicines.

But like our sister organization, **I'm here today to oppose HB 5366 and SB 328 to allow for Canadian drug imports.**

Quite simply, Canada lacks sufficient drug supply for the U.S. population. Our nation of 38 million people does not have the pharmaceutical supply for your 329 million citizens. We're already experiencing drug shortages. Currently, there are as many as 2,000 medications in short supply.

In hospital, drug shortages directly and negatively affect patient outcomes. Instead of doing clinical work with patients, pharmacists spend too much time sourcing scarce drugs from other hospitals or suppliers, finding appropriate therapeutic substitutes, repackaging for correct dosages, and communicating with other healthcare professionals about these shortages.

What you may also not be aware of is that in Canada, we do not have a track-and-trace system for our medicines. We can tell Canadians what farm the turkey on their sandwiches was born on, more easily than we can tell them the provenance of their medications. Thus, any track-and-trace system applied to medications imported from Canada to the U.S. would only lead back to Canada, and not throughout the Canadian supply chain.

This rule is an unworkable solution to a complex global system. It will result in more drug shortages in Canada and unintended consequences on patient health in both our countries. Instead, we encourage our American neighbours to find solutions that address the root causes of drug pricing in the U.S., to make medicines more affordable for your citizens.

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