



Testimony in Support of HB 5249

AAC Personal Opioid Drug Deactivation and Disposal Systems
and the Opioid Settlement Fund

February 27, 2024

To: Co-chairs Rep. Wood and Sen. Cabrera, Vice Chairs Sen. Anwar and Rep. Barry, Ranking Members Sen. Hwang and Rep Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 5249. CTLCV is committed to supporting efforts to protect our state's water supplies and our water ecosystems.

Pharmaceuticals in our water are a global threat to aquatic life and human health. Release of unused medications into the environment is a significant problem. They are now detectable in our rivers and waterways, even our drinking water supplies. Treatment facilities are not designed to filter or eliminate them, so we all become involuntary consumers of the compounds.

Because there is no recognized and convenient universal method for consumers to dispose of unwanted meds, they are flushed down the toilet or carelessly discarded into the environment.

There will be a positive environmental impact of teaching people how to safely and responsibly dispose of medications. CTLCV supports SB 5249 because this policy will help to:

- Change behavior to not only save lives from potential overdoses but protects the environment.
- Keep prescriptions from being incorrectly flushed down toilets and sinks which end up in our waterways.
- Safely dispose of toxic and harmful substances that would not otherwise reach a landfill.
- Enables a patient to permanently deactivate and destroy an opioid drug.

We applaud the Committee for raising this bill and urge your support.

CTLCV * 553 Farmington Avenue * Hartford CT 06105
ctlcv@ctlcv.org * ctlcv.org * (860)236-5442