



## CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

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MICHELLE H. SEAGULL | COMMISSIONER

### NPW 2021 LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners Delphin-Rittmon and Gifford, and the Connecticut National Prevention Week 2021 Planning Committee,

I am writing to express the Department of Consumer Protection's full support of Connecticut's celebration of National Prevention Week (NPW) 2021, May 9-15, 2021. I understand that these activities and initiatives establish a framework for expanded discussion throughout the year and build and sustain awareness of the importance of substance use prevention and the promotion of positive mental health.

Specifically, my agency supports substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention and mental health promotion through our work as drug control, liquor, and gambling industry regulators.

- The DCP Drug Control Division oversees all laws and regulations concerning the distribution of drugs within Connecticut, and conducts pharmacy inspections, audits, and investigations for improper prescribing, diversion, and misuse of controlled substance medications.
- The Drug Control Division is also proud to oversee the Prescription Monitoring Program, which collects prescription data for Schedule II through Schedule V drugs into a centralized database, used by healthcare providers and pharmacists in the active treatment of their patients.

As a healthcare tool, the database is used to improve the quality of patient care and to reduce prescription abuse, addiction, and overdose. This allows providers the opportunity to properly manage the patient's treatment, including referral of a patient to services offering treatment for drug abuse or addiction when appropriate. This tool has been an important resource in helping Connecticut combat the opioid crisis.

- DCP also offers the Medication Drop-Box Program: a free, confidential service that is available 24/7 and allows the public to safely dispose of unused or unwanted

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450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 901 Hartford, CT 06103 | (860) 713-6100

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prescription medications. The Department also promotes participation in Drug Take Back Events throughout the year.

- DCP's Liquor Control Division safeguards the health and safety of the public by regulating all persons and firms involved in distributing, selling, and dispensing of alcoholic liquor in order to prevent sales to minors and intoxicated persons, maintain product integrity, and ensure that licensed premises are safe and sanitary.
- Liquor Control Agents regularly provide training to local and state police officers about enforcement of the Liquor Control Act and on strategies that discourage underage drinking. References to alcohol abuse resources are also included on the DCP website.
- The DCP Gaming Division's mission includes supporting efforts to create public awareness of prevention, education, and treatment for the chronic gambler. Information and resources for people who may be concerned about the gambling habits of themselves or a loved one are available on our website.

DCP will continue our efforts to create public awareness of prevention, education and treatment for drug addiction, alcohol abuse and problem gambling.

The Department of Consumer Protection is pleased to join Connecticut's state and local partners, and communities in moving forward to inspire action and prevent substance use and mental disorders.

Sincerely,

**Michelle H. Seagull**  
Commissioner  
Department of Consumer Protection