**Testimony of Victoria Veltri**

**State Healthcare Advocate**

**Before the General Law Committee**

**In support of HB 5771**

**February 17, 2015**

Good afternoon, Representative Baram, Senator Leone, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter, and members of the General Law Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 5771, An Act Authorizing Pharmacists To Dispense Ninety Day Prescriptions. While I appreciate the intent behind this concept, which would promote consumer cost-savings, it is important that the treating provider and the patient remain integral to this process. In particular, it is crucial that any such act by a pharmacist comply with the prescriber's treatment plan, including affirmation that any quantity dispensed does not exceed the total amount of medication prescribed, including refills, and a prohibition on dispensing the greater quantity if the prescriber indicated on the prescription "No change to quantity," or words of similar meaning. However, it is important to note that medications prescribed for behavioral health conditions should not be dispensed in any quantity other than those prescribed by the treating provider.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.