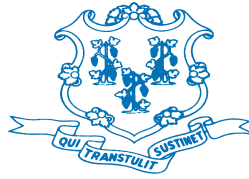


# The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE Release  
July 16, 2010

Contact: Jim Carson  
(860) 240-8790

## **REP. FONTANA MARKS NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG LAW TO HELP TOWNS SAVE ON HEALTH CARE COSTS**

### *Offers Municipalities Ability to Purchase Prescription Drugs Through State Employee Plan*

State Representative Steve Fontana (D-North Haven) said a new law allows prescription drug pooling and gives municipalities the chance to see substantial savings in their health care costs.

Governor M. Jodi Rell, held a signing ceremony for Public Act 10-131: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PURCHASING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS BY NONSTATE PUBLIC EMPLOYERS. It had received strong bipartisan support in the General Assembly.

The bill gives municipalities the ability to buy prescription drugs through the state employee plan. By taking advantage of the bargaining power, low administrative costs and substantial discounts negotiated by the large state employee pool, municipalities could see significant savings.

Depending on municipal workforce size, cities and towns could save as much as \$1 million - \$1.5 million annually, in addition to savings achieved by the state. Small communities with fewer than 500 municipal employees could achieve savings of as much as \$250,000 a year.

“Towns need every tool we can give them to keep property taxes down and to preserve vital services,” Rep. Fontana said. “This new law gives them the ability to control their health care costs by taking advantage of the state’s purchasing power to save money on prescription drugs for their employees.”

Comptroller Wyman recently allowed 16,000 members of the Teachers Retirement Board to use the state’s purchasing power under a similar agreement that reduced costs for the teachers and the state by a combined \$3 million. The Comptroller, negotiating on behalf of the nearly 200,000 lives in the state pool, has more bargaining power than individual municipalities negotiating coverage for far fewer people.

The bill was endorsed by the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) because it permits municipalities and the state to realize substantial discounts on some of their most expensive health care costs at a time when they are struggling with budgets and declining revenue.

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