



PHARMACISTS SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Memorandum of Opposition A4162-A Weisenberg/S5519 Flanagan

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to banning the sale, use, and prescription of any product containing the substance commonly known as Lindane

PSSNY is affiliated with:

National:

American Pharmacists Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
National Community Pharmacists Assn

State Affiliates:

Bangladesh-American Pharmacists Assn
Capital Area Pharmacists Society
Hudson Valley Pharmaceutical Society
Indo-American Pharmaceutical Society
Italian-American Pharmacists Society
Korean-American Pharmaceutical Assn
Long Island Pharmacists Society
Mohawk Valley Pharmacists Society
New York City Pharmacists Society
Northern New York Pharmaceutical Society
Orangetown County Pharmaceutical Society
Pakistan-American Pharmaceutical Assn
Pharmacists Society of Orange County
Pharmacists Assn of the Southern Tier
Pharmacists Assn of Western New York
Pharmacy Society of Rochester
Westchester/Rockland Society of Pharmacists

NYS Colleges of Pharmacy:

Albany College of Pharmacy, Union University
Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences
St. John's University College of Pharmacy &
Allied Health Professions
University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy &
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Lindane is available to the public only by prescription, and it is a very effective treatment for head lice and scabies. In fact, it is the only product available to treat these parasitic infestations **when other treatments have failed**. For these reasons we believe that Lindane should remain available by prescription in New York and why we are compelled to oppose this legislation.

As pharmacists we are authorized under law to dispense Lindane to the public or to licensed professionals who will use the product in the context of patient care. We are well aware of how this product should be used and we provide instructions when it is dispensed. As a first-line treatment, over-the-counter products are preferred and they are usually effective. Lindane should not be the first choice, but it should be available.

Removing Lindane from the pharmacy shelves in New York would be a disservice to patients who rely on the neighborhood pharmacist. Although the clear language in this bill would limit access and prohibit its use in most settings, the reality is this product would remain accessible to the public from mail order pharmacies or community pharmacies in adjoining states. If Lindane comes in the mail, the printed instructions can be ignored more easily than the in-person counseling and instructions from the dispensing pharmacist at the local drugstore. Lindane is approved by the FDA for use in the United States, and because it is it should be available in this state for patients unfortunate enough to be dealing with scabies or lice.