



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 21, 2007

Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch 509-8171

House Bill 5419 - An Act Concerning Temporary Food Service Permits for Nonprofit Organizations

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5419.

Temporary food service events present a greater risk for foodborne disease because of the large volume of food prepared, the generally lower level of knowledge of safe commercial food preparation practices among volunteer food workers, and the already less stringent requirements for the physical facilities.

The largest *Salmonella* outbreak in Connecticut's history occurred at a temporary event as a result of food prepared by a nonprofit organization. Poor personal hygiene among food workers is the second most common risk factor for foodborne disease according to CDC data and relaxing the requirements for toilets would likely result in hygiene problems for temporary food workers. Extending the maximum time period for permits and modifying the toilet requirement will increase the risk of foodborne disease to the public.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

Phone:



Telephone Device for the Deaf: (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # _____

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

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