



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 14, 2007

Meg Hooper, Planning Branch 509-7218

### Senate Bill 684 - An Act Concerning Community-Based Medical Residency Training Programs

---

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 684.

Such training programs in safety net provider settings have been shown to have benefit to the public in that (a) they provide additional temporary staffing while physicians rotate through these sites, and (b) exposure to this potential worksite enhances the recruitment and retention capabilities of providers serving the medically underserved. For physicians practicing at this site, there are also many benefits including: (a) exposure to an alternative, comprehensive practice model, (b) opportunity to learn more about the language, cultural beliefs and practices of underserved populations, and (c) the opportunity to function as part of a multi-disciplinary patient-focused team.

#### Background:

Connecticut has many areas, both urban and non-urban, that have received recognition by the federal government (USDHHS, HRSA, BHP, SDB) as being underserved and in need of assistance to meet the medical care needs of the population. Twenty-nine (29) Medically Underserved (MUA/P) federal designated sites and thirty-eight (38) Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) are struggling to find providers to serve their target populations represented by all eight CT counties.

More information about the underserved may be found at the following DPH web site:

<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/PB/HISR/HPSA.htm>

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

*Affirmative Action / An Equal Opportunity Employer*