



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY March 3, 2008**

*Jennifer Filippone, Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, (860) 509-7590*

### **Senate Bill 483 - An Act Promoting Patient Safety and Access to Provider Information by Extending the State Physician Profile to Certain Other Health Care Providers**

---

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 483.

Neither the enacted state budget nor the Governor's proposed budget for Department of Public Health includes funding for this initiative. Senate Bill 483 would require the Department to extend its physician profile program to include information pertaining to many of the other health care practitioners who are required to maintain medical malpractice liability insurance, including dentists, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, natureopaths, dental hygienists, advanced practice registered nurses and physical therapists.

The current physician profile provides information detailing each Connecticut licensed physician's educational and professional background, as well as disciplinary and malpractice history. Physician profiles were designed to provide Connecticut's healthcare consumers with information to assist them in making informed decisions regarding physicians. The public is advised that such information should be used as a starting point in evaluating a physician and that the profile should not be the sole basis for selecting a physician.

The proposed bill modifies the existing physician profile statute to require these additional health care providers to submit information, including but not limited to, hospital disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, and malpractice judgments and awards. The proposal does not however authorize the Department, or the appropriate board or commission, to take disciplinary action against providers who do not comply with the reporting requirements.

Senate Bill 483 would require the Department to implement the expansion of health care provider profiles effective October 1, 2008. Implementation of this initiative would result in significant fiscal impact to the Department. Additional funding would be necessary to upgrade our information technology infrastructure and to carry out the activities associated with implementing a program of this magnitude, as these functions could not be absorbed within existing resources.

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*