



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 3, 2008**

*Jennifer Filippone, Chief, Practitioner Licensing and Investigations, (860) 509-7490*

### **Senate Bill 496 - An Act Concerning Public Health Preparedness**

---

The Department of Public Health supports Senate Bill 496.

Enactment of this bill supports the Department's efforts in relation to continuity of operations planning.

It provides the Commissioner with the authority to temporarily suspend license renewal requirements and requirements for inspections, for the duration of a declared emergency and for the six-month period following the date the emergency is declared to be over, in the event that the Department is unable to continue to perform such activities during this period of time. Licenses that are not renewed during the period of suspension would not expire.

Upon conclusion of the six-month period following the date the emergency is declared to be over, the Commissioner would be required to reinstate the license renewal requirements and resume the inspection process.

License holders would be provided with six months from the date the license renewal requirements are reinstated to renew their licenses. The Department would be required to conduct inspections within six months from the date that inspections resumed. The Commissioner would have the ability to extend these periods of time for good cause, and grant no more than two ninety-day extensions.

The Commissioner would not be permitted to suspend the Department's license renewal and inspection responsibilities until such time that the Governor issues an order that modifies or suspends any statute, regulation or requirement relating to license renewals and inspections by the Department of Public Health and sets forth the reasons for such modification or suspension.

The Department intends to continue to renew licenses and conduct inspections during a declared emergency, but recognizes that resources may need to be devoted to the emergency or that only limited resources may be available to conduct these activities. The Department respectfully requests the opportunity to submit substitute language to clarify that only some of the license renewal and/or inspection requirements may need to be suspended and to allow the Department to reinstate license renewal requirements and resume inspections prior to the declaration that the emergency is over, or prior to the end of the six-month period following the date the emergency is declared to be over.

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*