



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION February 29, 2008

Dick Edmonds, Public Health Initiatives, 860-509-8057

Senate/House Bill HB 5591 - An Act Concerning Healthy Teens

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 5591

This bill would enhance the delivery of health education programs to youth across the state. The Department supports the use of medically accurate health education that follows curriculum guidelines as established by State Department of Education. There continues to be a need to offer youth repeated and consistent health messages to promote healthy behaviors as results from the 2005 CT School Health Survey indicate that our middle and high school students are still practicing many risky behaviors.

The State Adolescent Health Strategic Plan specifically lists the following as a state priority: Provide adolescents with the support, options and resources they need to successfully transition to healthy, empowered, and productive adulthood. The Plan further identifies the following strategy - Promote models for evidence-based, medically accurate educational programs and tools for teachers, providers and parents/guardians to help them empower adolescents, including those with special healthcare needs, to engage in health-positive behaviors and lifestyles. For schools, these programs should be based on the State Department of Education's Health Education and Physical Education Curriculum framework.

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

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker: Dick Edmonds

Date: 2/29/08 Bill Number: 5591

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