



**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit
Providers For the Aging**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health

In support of

**Senate Bill 5701, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Statutes Pertaining to the
Department of Public Health**

Senate Bill 496, An Act Concerning Public Health Preparedness

March 3, 2008

CANPFA members serve thousands of people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Our members offer the continuum of aging services: assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, residential care homes, nursing homes, home and community based services, and senior housing.

**Senate Bill 5701, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Statutes Pertaining to the
Department of Public Health**

CANPFA would like to comment on Section 6. of this bill which seeks a technical change to the section of the general statutes that empowers the Commissioner of Public Health to take emergency action against a health care provider's license when the health, safety or welfare of any patient or patients warrants it. It appears from a reading of the current statute that this power was previously restricted to licenses of home health care agencies and homemaker services. If this is indeed true, this technical change would drastically expand the emergency powers of the office of Commissioner. This is not to say that such an expansion is not appropriate, but worthy of commenting on since this change is being proposed in a technical revision bill.

Senate Bill 496, An Act Concerning Public Health Preparedness

CANPFA members have been developing Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) in preparation for a public health disaster, crisis, or natural disaster. We have been working with the Department of Public Health regarding the development of these plans and meeting on a regular basis to receive updates and additional information. There has been concern raised about the legal operations of a health care facility during a crisis if the inspection and re-licensure function of the Department of Public Health is suspended. It is encouraging to see the state planning for just such a scenario and taking steps to ensure that health care facilities and practitioners will be able to legally operate and practice during a public health emergency.

We thank you for allowing us to comment on these bills and look forward to working with you.

Respectfully submitted,

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