



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

5841

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE February 5, 2009

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House Bill 5841 - An Act Concerning A Uniform Reporting Form For Preschool and Child Care Programs

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 5841.

This bill requires the general statutes to be amended to require the Departments of Education, Social Services and Public Health to develop a uniform reporting form for all preschool and child care programs receiving state funding. The Department of Public Health (DPH) is the state agency responsible for the Child Day Care Licensing Program.

Facts regarding child day care licensing program:

- The requirements for licensure are prescribed in the statutes and regulations specific to the licensure of family day care homes, group day care homes, and child day care centers.
- The documentation required by DPH is limited to that required to substantiate compliance with the regulatory requirements.
- Licenses are issued for a four-year term, and renewed upon completion of an invoice, payment of the licensure fee, and receipt of a copy of the certificate of insurance for workers compensation for employees of the program.
- DPH has collaborated in the past with the Department of Social Services, the State Department of Education and the Head Start Collaborative to design the Early Childhood Health Assessment Record used by all of these agencies to improve the ease and efficiency of the collection of child health information.
- The reporting requirements for the licensing program differ significantly from reporting requirements to obtain state or federal funding.
- Many licensed programs operate without public funding, thus any additional information needed by funding agencies would not be required.
- DPH has participated in the Quality Rating and Improvement System Workgroup of the Policy and Research Council. One of the goals of this workgroup is to streamline the reporting requirements programs must meet.

The Department would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Departments of Education and Social Services to try to resolve this issue within available resources.

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

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