

**Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing**

March 24, 2009

Testimony of Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner, Department of Correction

Good afternoon, Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Theresa Lantz, Commissioner for the Department of Correction and submit this testimony on the following bill:

**Committee Bill No. 6342, An Act Concerning Disease Prevention in the
Correctional System**

The Department believes this proposed legislation is unnecessary. The Department has already developed and implemented comprehensive and detailed policies and procedures to reduce the incidence and transmission of infectious and communicable diseases in the correctional system for both employees and the inmate population.

The following Administrative Directives can be found on the Department's website:

- Administrative Directive 2.19 Employee Health (this policy covers TB and Hepatitis B)
- Administrative Directive 2.25 MRSA Prevention and Management Protocols for Employees (this policy covers Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)
- Administrative Directive 7.8 Management of Pandemic Outbreak
- Administrative Directive 8.11 Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

The Department also has a Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan and the UConn Health Center CMHC, the agency's contracted health care provider, has the following policies:

- CMHC Policy B1.01 Infection Control Program
- CMHC Policy B1.02 Infection Control Committee

In addition, there is a staffed Infectious Disease Program within the DOC Health Services Unit that monitors services.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on Committee Bill No. 6342.