



JOHN DESTEFANO, JR.
Mayor

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICE ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
54 Meadow Street - 9TH Floor • New Haven • Connecticut 06519
Phone 203-946-8174 • Fax 203-946-6509



WILLIAM P. QUINN, M.P.H.
Director of Health

**Testimony in Support
of S.B. 6616
An Act Establishing Wood Smoke
to be a Public Nuisance
Presented to the Public Health Committee**

March 6, 2009

Good Morning,

My name is Paul Kowalski and I am presenting this testimony as the Environmental Health Program Director for the City of New Haven Health Department. I reside in the City of New Haven and have worked in the field of public health for over thirty years, twenty-eight years with this department. I am in support of Raised Bill No. S.B. 6616, An Act Establishing Wood Smoke to be a Public Health Nuisance. I believe this law shall provide municipal health departments and health districts with a tool to properly provide public health protection, where necessary.

Once enacted, I believe this amendment to the Public Health Code shall assist a segment of our population which has been placed in harms way, without any clear remedy. With the number of asthma cases within urban environments health departments require legislative assistance in eliminating potential triggers. Certain wood smoke emissions should be considered a public health nuisance and treated accordingly. However, currently it appears no section of the State Public Health Code or Regulations of State Agencies clearly addresses the issue of consistent emissions of wood smoke entering an adjacent property owner's residence and/or yard. To allow for such authority is the reason behind my support of this bill and shall greatly assist this department with it's efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns.