



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 2, 2009

Meg Hooper, Chief, Planning Branch 509-7128

Senate Bill 1050 - An Act Concerning the Establishment of an Academic Detailing Program

The Department of Public Health **opposes** Senate Bill 1050 as currently written.

This bill would have the Department of Public Health perform a type of educational outreach, known as "academic detailing" whereby it would develop an evidence-based training program for physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals that prescribe and dispense medication to promote the most therapeutic and cost-effective utilization of prescription medications.

While the concept of this bill is worth pursuing, the provisions of this legislation:

- **Fall outside the mission of the Department of Public Health**
It is not appropriate for the Department of Public Health to lead an academic detailing program that ultimately provides treatment to individuals. DPH's mission consists of regulatory functions, disease prevention and public health policy planning.

As noted in the bill, academic detailing is currently being performed by a number of medical schools across the country. These institutions are far better situated to perform the type of coordination and education outlined here.

- **Fail to guarantee adequate funding for the activities mandated**
The mechanism for funding provided for in this bill leaves the potential for this program to be unfunded because it relies on the receipt of grants from both the federal government and other non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, there is no money provided to DPH for academic detailing in the Governor's budget.

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

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