



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 27, 2009

*Ellen Blaschinski, Chief, Regulatory Services Branch (860) 509-8171*

### **Senate Bill 551 - An Act Concerning Licensure Requirements for Municipally Operated Preschools**

The Department of Public Health **opposes** Senate Bill 551.

Current law exempts preschools administered by public school systems, or by municipal agencies when they are located in a public school building from child day care licensing.

#### **Municipally operated preschools located in non-school settings must meet DPH licensing requirements.**

The Department respectfully requests the Committee take the following concerns into consideration:

- The number of programs operating under the current exemption is not known, but is expected to be large.
- Regulations do not exist specifically for municipally operated preschools; regulations exist for the licensure of child day care centers and group day care homes which could be operated by different entities. Regulations are minimum standards to protect public health and safety.
- DPH no longer issues six-month provisional licenses to any other child day care facility. Child day care facilities are licensed for a term of four years. Implementation of this would be costly.
- The creation of a handbook for municipal preschools containing all applicable mandates concerning the operation of a municipal preschool is required and cannot be done within existing resources.

The Department of Public Health and local health departments conduct initial site inspections and monitoring inspections every two years at licensed child day care facilities. **Significant resources** would be needed for additional licensing staff to meet the demand of issuing 6-month licenses, conducting inspections, and monitoring these facilities, and creating and distributing a separate handbook for these facilities. This bill would create a different tier of licensure with different standards for municipally operated facilities. **The Department does not support this bill at this time, as the Governor's budget does not provide resources for this purpose.**

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

Phone:



Telephone Device for the Deaf: (860) 509-7191

410 Capitol Avenue - MS # \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134

*Affirmative Action / An Equal Opportunity Employer*