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Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer

Public Health Committee

House Bill 5446

March 12, 2010 10:00 Room 1D

RE: In Support – Mass Gatherings

Good morning Chairmen Harris and Ritter, Ranking Members Debicella and Giegler, and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Representative Pam Sawyer, representing the 55th District. I am here today to speak in favor of **House Bill 5446** AAC Mass Gatherings.

This bill seeks to amend a law that was adopted in the 2009 session that was included in a larger public act that impacted several Public Health statutes. Under current law the thresholds for both attendance and duration of an event covers more of our local fairs and other community gatherings to require a special license. Under this proposal it provides flexibility and relief to the organization by the host municipality, if granted, from certain provisions contained in Sections 19a-436; 19a-437; and 19a-438(a).

In the 55th House District there is a very successful Lions Club Fair held in September annually in Hebron. They are in contact with the municipality for safety reasons, be it police and fire protection, as well as food safety. Many of these events have a long tradition in that community and successfully coordinate all activities.

In the case of the Hebron Lions Fair, it brings together the community organizations and they raise much needed dollars for many regional and local non-profits. The fair is run by volunteers that work year around to prepare, often giving up their vacations for this community event.

Making it easier for these organizations to conduct their community events should be the goal of this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **House Bill 5446** and I ask the Committee to act favorably on this bill.