



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE Public Health Committee March 23, 2011

Lisa Davis, Public Health Initiatives/860.509.7794

House Bill 6610 - An Act Concerning Vaccines.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) does not support House Bill 6610 amendment to CGS 19a-7f that expands provider choice in the selection of any vaccine licensed by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) per the recommendations of the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) made available to the Department of Public Health within available appropriations at this time. The resources to implement the program are not contained in the Governor's proposed budget.

The current vaccine distribution policy of the Connecticut Immunization Program only provides vaccines from a single manufacturer when more than one manufacturer's product exists with similar efficacy, safety and costs through our universal vaccine distribution program. DPH has not supported a choice option to provide all FDA licensed vaccine products because of the potential cost implications and need for additional staff to institute such a program.

DPH is in the process of conducting a feasibility study designed to assess current internal processes that support the immunization program vaccine management system (ordering, accountability and distribution) and costs associated in creating a vaccine distribution system that allows provider choice for ordering vaccine products with similar efficacy, safety and costs through the state's universal vaccine distribution program. The assessment will provide a detailed estimate of operational costs to implement a full choice vaccine distribution program in terms of staff time, supplies, equipment and training. This study will also determine what effect the policy changes might bring going from a non-choice to a full choice distribution program.

The DPH Immunization Program works with the CT health care provider community that provides immunizations to children and adolescents by providing publicly purchase vaccines to ensure that children, regardless of insurance status, receive all the ACIP-recommended vaccines. Specifically pediatricians and family physicians, community health centers, local health departments, school based health centers and hospital pediatric clinics statewide. The goal of the DPH Immunizations Program is to achieve the highest possible age appropriate vaccination rates for each recommended vaccine for children to protect as many as possible through individual and collective "herd" immunity and cause the least disruption to daycare and school entry process for required vaccines.

Once the study is completed the department will have detailed information about the cost projections for implementing the program and the funding that would be required to support a vaccine choice selection program.

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

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*