



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
March 7, 2012**

Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860) 509-7101

House Bill 5242 – An Act Concerning Donated Dental Services

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with respect to House Bill 5242. The Department opposes the bill.

This bill would allow the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Social Services to contract with licensed dental professionals or a state-wide entity which represents dental professionals to establish and operate a program for the delivery of charitable dental services to low-income families.

While the Department applauds the proponents' goal of expanding dental care to low income persons, the process of determining individuals' eligibility for dental services, identifying participating dentists and scheduling appointments is beyond the scope of our oral health office. The State Office of Oral Health is funded by the federal government for infrastructure development to increase population-level oral disease prevention and health promotion programs statewide.

In a number of states Donated Dental Services programs are operated by their dental societies or dental foundations. Implementing a program for donated dental services in Connecticut may best be performed by a non-governmental entity.

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

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