

To: Senator Gerantana Representative Ritter
From: Carolyn Wysocki MA, MHSA
Date: March 5, 2012
Re: Raised Bill SB - 277 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL TO PROMOTE
COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Good Day ,
Senator Gerantana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

My name is Carolyn Wysocki and I am a member of the Central Connecticut Health District Board. The Central Connecticut Health District is a 4 town regional Health Department serving about 97,000 people in the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. I was appointed by and represent the Town of Berlin on this governing health board..

I am also a Board member of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) and have served on the Governors Council on Local Health Regionalization and the prior DPH Commissioner's Public Health Council on Local Public Health.

It is from these experiences that I share with you my concern regarding SB-277 .

I support the concept of the bill and its intention to promote better communication and collaboration between the Department of Public Health Departments and Local Health Departments and Districts. While the Bill proposes representation of health directors and other public health entities, it does not include at least two representatives from a District and Municipal Board of Health.

District Health Departments, such as the Central Connecticut Health District are formed by their member towns according to state statutes and are governed by a Board of Health. District Boards hire their Health Directors; are accountable to their communities for identification of public health needs; ensure the quality of the programs and services provided; develop policies; set fees and serve as advocates for Public Health.

Districts are funded by municipal, state and federal funding and are accountable to our member towns for our fiscal decisions. Boards of Health are a critical link in what makes public health system work locally and therefore needs to be at the table when decisions about state and federal funding are made.

Boards of Health need to be partners with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Directors of Health in the promoting and protecting the health of our community.

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