

**Bonhomme, Penny**

**From:** Sorrentino, Louis [Louis.Sorrentino@po.state.ct.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:43 PM  
**To:** PHC Testimony  
**Subject:** Raised H.B. No. 5321- Objection to

Dear Senator Edith Prague and the Public Health Committee,

As a State of Connecticut employee working in the public health arena, (DMHAS) I can assure you that language in Raised H.B. No. 5321 is *very disturbing to many of us.* Having just last year seeing Connecticut Valley Hospital almost closed, the Certificate of Need process, as currently phrased, was one of the things that saved CVH. Public health services for the downtrodden needs the current language, in these particular examples, to stay as is.

Raised H.B. No. 5321. "AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROCESS" proposes deletion of the language "the proposal will impact the financial strength of the health care system in the state] and replace it with "that the proposal is financially feasible for the applicant;" in (1) (4 ) It also mentions three times adding "to terminate a service or enter into a contract for another entity to provide a service" in Sec. 10. CHANGING THE LANGUAGE TO "FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE FOR THE APPLICANT" HAS A DISTURBING IMPLICATION; IN OTHER WORDS, IF AN APPLICANT OR AGENCY CAN SIMPLY DEMONSTRATE THAT A PROPOSAL to "TERMINATE A SERVICE" IS MONETARITY POSSIBLE (I.E., FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE ) THIS LOWER THRESHHOLD WOULD BECOME THE STANDARD, AS OPPOSED TO HOW A PROPOSAL "IMPACTS THE FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE STATE".

Given the disturbing implications detailed, we implore the Public Health Committee to refuse to allow us to go down this slippery slope. Please reply with the Committee's recommendations following investigation of this important matter.

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3/7/2012