



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGING February 26, 2013**

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

### **Senate Bill 936- An Act Concerning Streamlining Approval For Nursing Homes To Shelter Displaced Residents**

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The Department of Public Health (DPH) appreciates the opportunity to provide the following information for the Committee's consideration.

Currently, the Department has a waiver mechanism that permits nursing homes, in the event of a local, regional or national disaster to surge the licensed bed capacity by 10%. The waiver prescribes elements that provide in part, a safe and comfortable environment, notification to the local fire marshal of the increase in licensed bed capacity, and provisions for adequate food and supplies. This mechanism has been executed during previous incidents and has met with success in decompressing emergency departments.

Furthermore, the Department has no prior experience relating to establishing reimbursement rates for such stays. Due to the department's role as a regulatory agency, we believe that DPH's participation in rate setting would be inappropriate.

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

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