

Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
*In Support of Committee Bill No. 5110: An Act Concerning the Development and Use
of a Universal Child Health Form*

To the Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee
February 27, 2013

Good afternoon, distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Karen Spargo, President of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) and Director of Health of the Naugatuck Valley Health District, serving the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Derby, Naugatuck, Seymour and Shelton.

CADH supports *Committee Bill No. 5110: An Act Concerning the Development and Use of a Universal Child Health Form*. In this state's vastly complex health care and public health landscape, CADH applauds efforts to streamline and centralize health information. The use of a universal health form is also critical to ensuring uniform data collection. Meaningfully improving the public's health requires ease of information-sharing across sectors and among municipal health authorities and district departments of health. Such collaboration is greatly aided by the use of universal forms.

Should the bill pass, we encourage the Connecticut Department of Health to engage local health directors and departments in helping create the form, especially those health departments who offer clinical services. Local health directors and other community partners have a critical on-the-ground perspective that can and should inform the development of a universal child health form.

CADH applauds this step toward greater uniformity in data collection and thanks you for your consideration. CADH is a nonprofit organization comprised of Connecticut's 71 local health departments and districts. Local health directors are the statutory agents of the Commissioner of Public Health and are critical providers of essential public health services at the local level in Connecticut.