



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**March 8, 2013**

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

### **House Bill 6158 - An Act Concerning Vaccine Distribution**

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The Department of Public Health (DPH) opposes House Bill 6158. The bill would amend section 19a-7f of the Connecticut General Statutes to allow health care providers to procure childhood vaccines from sources other than the Department of Public Health.

On January 1, 2013, the DPH implemented the Connecticut Vaccine Program (CVP). 713 health care providers from across the state are enrolled in the CVP to vaccinate children with all vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The State universally provides 14 of the 16 vaccines routinely recommended for children. In the first two months of the program, 138,040 doses of vaccine have been distributed to providers statewide. By statute, a vaccine discrepancy report form is available to providers to document discrepancies whenever a vaccine order is not completely filled. The CVP has not received any discrepancy reports to date.

The Connecticut Vaccine Program purchases and distributes vaccines free of charge to health care providers for the benefit of all children who are not eligible for the federal Vaccine for Children entitlement program. Because the Department can procure vaccines through the federal contract that the CDC negotiates with vaccine manufacturers, the cost of the vaccines is much lower than when procured privately. It should also be noted that current law allows for vaccine procurement from a source other than the DPH when a provider is directed by the Department to do so, including but not limited to, during a declared national or state vaccine shortage.

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

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