



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 8, 2013**

*Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner*

### **House Bill 5744 - An Act Concerning Childhood Immunization**

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The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information regarding HB 5744.

This bill would amend the general statutes to require the Department to provide health care providers who vaccinate children with vaccines available to the DPH from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); allow health care providers to charge patients for expenses related to vaccines; and require the Department to establish a childhood immunization advisory council.

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. 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.

Under the Connecticut Vaccine Program, DPH 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.

The Department continues to rely upon the Vaccine Purchase Advisory Committee, which was established in November 2005 to advise the DPH on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Childhood Vaccine Program. The advisory committee is composed of physicians and nurses with expertise in the following clinical areas: Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Epidemiology, Public Health, Infectious Disease, Immunology, and School Health. The Department feels that section 3 is duplicative of current efforts.

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

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