



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Education Committee
Testimony of Chief Operating Officer Charlene Russell-Tucker
March 12, 2014

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and honorable committee members, thank you for the opportunity to present brief comments on HB 5521, *AAC the Storage and Administration of Epinephrine at Public Schools and Public Institutions of Higher Education*.

The Department has significant concerns with this proposal. The proposed bill completely changes medication administration in school, allowing for anyone to administer any medication. This goes against the Nurse Practice Act. Additionally, the definitions differ significantly from the definitions currently included in our medication administration regulations, which after nearly a decade of work and significant stakeholder input, govern the administration of medication in schools.

The stated purpose of the bill is to:

- Authorize the storage of epinephrine at schools
- Authorize the administration of epinephrine to students who do not have a prior written authorization for epinephrine
- Clarify the statute regarding the administration of medication in schools

The Department would like to note that schools are already authorized to store epinephrine. Further, districts have standing orders that allow for the administration of medication to students who are not diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy. This means that based on a nurse's judgment, each district has a list of medications that may be administered to students or staff members who are not diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy but experiences an anaphylactic reaction. Finally, in attempting to clarify this statute, the proposal differs significantly from the regulations and in some cases has conflicting definitions as previously stated.

In order to better align with the stated purpose of the bill, we would recommend that the language be amended to mandate that standing orders for every district include epinephrine or epi-pens for those students who may not be diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy and experience an anaphylactic reaction.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak further with the committee to address these concerns.