



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 5, 2014

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 5386: AN ACT CONCERNING CARE COORDINATION FOR CHRONIC DISEASE.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) offers the following information regarding House Bill 5386.

The Department would like to thank the Public Health Committee for acknowledging the impact of chronic disease. Seven out of the top ten causes of death in CT are due to chronic disease. It is well established that deaths and disability from chronic disease could be substantially reduced through widespread adoption of proven preventive interventions. The intent of the bill is to reduce the burden of chronic disease and improve care coordination. This bill proposes that DPH in consultation with the Comptroller, representatives of hospitals and other healthcare facilities and local and regional health departments develop a plan to reduce incidence of chronic disease and improve care coordination. The bill also requires that the Commissioner submit an annual report to the Committee concerning chronic disease and implementation of the plans described.

DPH engages in chronic disease prevention and control work, in large part through funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently there are CDC funded programs in asthma, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and tobacco prevention. In addition, CDC funds are supporting the development of a state-wide chronic disease plan and activities to support chronic disease prevention and control at the local level. For chronic diseases in particular, care coordination at the point of care can improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care costs.

Although the intent of the bill is in broad alignment with DPH's chronic disease goals, DPH does note that additional staff and infrastructure would be required to meet the bill's requirements.

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

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