



March 14, 2014

Testimony concerning Raised Bill No. 5504 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Local Health Departments and Districts

Dear Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

The Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-202 and 19a-245 provide for per-capita funding to local health departments. In the City of Norwalk these funds have been used for a variety of purposes. In recent years we acquired an electronic medical record system and software to support inspections. The very popular Lighthouse Program, an on line searchable rating system for all food establishment inspections was created and promoted with funds from this grant. The coordination of our efforts to be accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board was in large part funded by the per capita grant.

The per capita grant is an important source of funds for local health departments. I understand the rationale for phasing out the carry over provision in this grant. Further I appreciate the two year window for spending down the accumulated balances. Since we often fund one time projects which are not completed in one fiscal year, I am proposing allowing up to a 10% carryover of a year's allocation beginning in fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Please contact me if you have questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Callahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Timothy J. Callahan

Director of Health