



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee
Committee**

March 5, 2014

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

**Senate Bill 295: An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's
Recommendation Regarding Waiver of Sovereign Immunity**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 295 and would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising the Department's bill. Senate Bill 295 repeals section 19a-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes. This section of the statute treats the Commissioners of Public Health and Developmental Services differently from all other state agency commissioners in that it allows a claim for damages in excess of \$7,500 to be brought against them as a civil action in state court, bypassing the Claims Commissioner.

Deletion of this outdated provision will make it clear that claims against the state, including those against the Departments of Public Health and Developmental Services, must be filed with the Claims Commissioner pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 4-141 et seq.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.