



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 17, 2014**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
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**Senate Bill 437 – An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors**

The Department of Public Health opposes Senate Bill 437 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

- Senate Bill 437 would establish a new licensure program within the Department of Public Health for genetic counselors.
- Development and implementation of a new licensing program would have a fiscal impact on the Department, and it could not be accomplished within existing resources.
- The Department does not support the bill at this time, as the Governor's budget does not provide resources for this purpose.
- In 2011, the General Assembly passed legislation to establish a scope of practice review process to evaluate requests from health care professions seeking to revise or establish a scope of practice prior to consideration by the General Assembly. The scope of practice review process includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request, an evaluation of whether the request may enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether the request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training. The process also evaluates whether there is a need to establish a new licensure program or if there are other regulatory models such as statutory recognition that would provide adequate assurances for public protection if needed.
- The genetic counselors submitted scope of practice requests to the Department of Public Health in 2012 and 2013. On average, the Department receives 8 scope of practice requests each year and is unable to review all such requests within available resources.

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

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