



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Human
Services**

March 11, 2014

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

House Bill 5498: An Act Concerning Child Day Care Licensure Exemptions

The Department of Public Health (DPH) opposes House Bill 5498 and offers the following information:

House Bill 5498 will exempt programs administered by the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club located in Southport, Fairfield and Bridgeport from the need to obtain child day care center licenses. The Wakeman Boys & Girls Club does not fall within the scope of subsection (7) of section 19a-77 (a) which exempts "[drop-in] programs administered by a nationally chartered boys' and girls' club." The Department currently licenses two Boys & Girls Clubs that are not exempt pursuant to 19a-77 (a)(7).

The Department has not historically supported licensure exemptions. The Child Care licensing specialists and supervisors, health program staff, administrators, and support staff are dedicated to assuring that all licensed child daycare programs operate at or above the regulatory standards established by State statutes and regulations and accomplish this by providing technical assistance, application processing, facility monitoring, complaint investigations, and enforcement actions. DPH believes licensed child care programs offer the safest and healthiest opportunities for young children.

The Department is happy to answer any questions regarding licensure requirements that the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club may have. Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.