



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 5, 2014

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

House Bill 5384: An Act Concerning Reports of Nursing Nurse Staffing Levels

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5384, An Act Concerning Reports of Nursing Nurse Staffing Levels.

The Department of Public Health conducts licensure and certification inspections of hospitals on a prescribed time frame set forth by the Public Health Code and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. During the course of inspection activities, staffing patterns are reviewed to ensure that adequate staffing is in place to meet the needs of the patients.

The Department opposes the concept raised in this bill as reviewing staffing ratios pursuant to an annual submission to the Department is not the most effective method to assess an adequate staffing plan. It is more effective to review staffing plans onsite in relation to observed care and patient outcomes. If negative patient outcomes are identified, a comprehensive review is then done to assess the staffing ratio and any causative factors that may have contributed to the negative outcome.

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