



Connecticut Department of Public Health

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

03/05/2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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**House Bill #6909 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
ADVISORY BOARD**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information regarding House Bill 6909. HB 6909 mandates the Department to participate on the traumatic brain injury advisory board, along with providing administrative support to the board and establishing memoranda of understanding between the board and DPH to share information and resources to accomplish the goals of the board.

The Department would like to thank the Committee for acknowledging the importance of preventing traumatic brain injury or "TBI" in Connecticut. TBI is a public health issue that has been drawing increased attention nationally with a 67% increase in emergency department visit in Connecticut since 2007. The Department recognizes the importance of highlighting new research as it becomes available, however, collating and disseminating such information to various stakeholders will require staff time and resources that cannot be accommodated within the Department's budget.

The Department currently has an Office of Injury Prevention, which was established in 1993 pursuant to Section 19a-4i of the Connecticut General Statutes. The purpose of the office was to coordinate and expand prevention and control activities related to intentional and unintentional injuries. Its charge was to collect and analyze data, establish collaborations with other agencies to address injury statewide, support community-based injury initiatives, and develop sources of funding to establish and continue injury prevention programs. Currently, the Injury program (Intentional and Unintentional injury) has two staff: One Program Associate and one Epidemiologist. While the Department could participate as a member of the traumatic brain injury advisory board, we could not provide administrative support within existing resources. Therefore, should the bill move forward with the language contained in subsection (f), the agency cannot support it due to the anticipated fiscal impact.

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

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