



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 16, 2015

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

House Bill 6861 An Act Concerning Marital and Family Therapists

The Department opposes House Bill 6861, which would create a new licensure category called marital and family therapist associate. This new category would not require postgraduate client contact and clinical supervision as a condition for licensure.

The concept of a marital and family therapist associate has not gone through the formal scope of practice review process under the provisions of sections 19a-16d through 19a-16f, inclusive. The scope of practice review process allows other professions that may be directly impacted by a scope of practice request to identify the nature of that impact and participate in the scope of practice review process. The process also allows for an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request, 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. In the absence of this process and the information that it provides, the Department opposes this bill.

Furthermore, the Department would be unable to support an additional licensure category within existing resources.

In the absence of a formal scope of practice review process, and the additional resources that would be needed to implement a new licensure category and the requirements of this bill, the Department is not supportive of this bill at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information related to this bill.