



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commission on Children



**Testimony Submitted to the Public Health Committee on
Proposed H.B. No. 6884 and H.B. 6949
Submitted by Mary Kate Lowndes, Director of Development and Special Initiatives
Connecticut Commission on Children
March 18, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Mary Kate Lowndes. I am the Director of Development and Special Initiatives at the Commission on Children. The Commission on Children supports H.B. No. 6884, *An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control* and H.B. No. 6949, *An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations*, with a couple of recommended alterations.

Regarding H.B. No. 6884, *An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control*, the Commission supports Connecticut's defined level for lead poisoning of five micrograms per deciliter of blood or more, in line with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention definition of lead poisoning in children.¹ We support the legislative directive that the director of health of the town, city, borough or district provide, or cause to be provided, information to the parent or guardian of a child diagnosed with lead poisoning that includes (1) a description of the dangers of lead poisoning, (2) precautions to reduce the risk of lead poisoning, (3) information about potential eligibility for services for children from birth to three years of age, and (4) laws and regulations concerning lead abatement.

We are concerned that this information need only be provided one time. We suggest the legislation include linking the child and his/her parent or guardian to a medical home, so that the child will have medical care throughout treatment and recovery from the lead poisoning. Additionally we suggest the information be provided in the first language of the parent or guardian.

Regarding H.B. No. 6949, *An Act Concerning Childhood Vaccinations*, we support the added language requiring a parent or guardian of a child seeking religious exemption to the initial and/or additional immunizations required under Connecticut statute to submit a notarized statement that (1) such immunizations would be contrary to the religious beliefs of such child,

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/data/definitions.htm>

and (2) that the parent or guardian has reviewed and understands evidence-based instructional material provided by DPH regarding the risks to such child and to others of such child failing to receive adequate immunizations. We suggest the information be available in the first language of the parent or guardian.

Thank you.