



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee
March 18, 2015**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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Raised Bill 7006-- An Act Concerning Birth Certificate Amendments

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is supportive of the concept of Raised Bill 7006, but respectfully requests an amendment to address two major concerns with the bill as currently written. This proposal would allow a person to change the sex designation on a birth certificate to reflect a transition in gender. Currently, sex on a birth certificate can only be changed when a person has undergone sex reassignment surgery. Under this bill, a person who chooses not to have sex re-assignment surgery will have other treatment options to substantiate a change of sex on the birth certificate. Those other options include hormonal treatment or other treatment clinically appropriate for the applicant.

As currently written, the Department has concerns about the types of providers that will be able to submit a statement on behalf of the applicant to validate the gender transition and the form in which that statement is made. DPH would be supportive of language that would include a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, and a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 submitting a notarized affidavit acknowledging that the individual has gone through surgical, hormonal or other clinically appropriate treatment for the purpose of the individual's gender transition. The Department is pleased to submit the proposed language changes, which reflect the work the department has completed with the support of the administration. The language requested by DPH differs from HB 7006 by: (1) removing nurses licensed pursuant to chapter 370 as a health care provider who can attest to the treatment and; (2) requiring a notarized affidavit from the health care provider rather than a written statement.

The Department has a mission to uphold the integrity of vital records, and to do so, it must require strong and reliable documentary evidence to verify amendments to a birth certificate. The current language does not meet this standard.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's testimony.

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