



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Housing Committee

February 17, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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**House Bill # 6759 An Act Concerning the Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants
Regarding the Treatment of Bed Bug Infestations**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to House Bill # 6759. Although defining the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants regarding the treatment of bed bug infestations is important legislation, the DPH has concerns regarding treatment options. Bed bug infestations have become a growing problem in recent years across the state. Due to the nature of bed bugs it is strongly recommended that pesticide management professionals be engaged to treat bed bug infestation. Delaying effective treatment can lead to further resistance and significantly higher bed bug populations that are increasingly difficult to control.

A licensed pesticide management professional is trained to locate bed bugs and has the knowledge of what pesticides are effective in eradicating the infestation. Bed bug infestation can involve more than beds and upholstered furniture, including cracks and crevices in the dwelling such as behind electric face plates, a fact not well understood by the public. Research has found that pesticides available to consumers are mostly ineffective in treating bed bugs. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have identified the misuse of pesticides to treat infestations of bed bugs and other indoor insects as an emerging national issue. A licensed pesticide management professional has the tools and skills necessary to safely treat bed bug infestation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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