



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Labor and Public Employees
Committee**

March 3, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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Senate Bill #985 An Act Concerning Barbershops and Apprenticeships

The Department opposes Senate Bill 985 as written. However, the Department is supportive of the concept of creating an apprenticeship path to employment as a licensed barber. Senate bill 985 mandates the Connecticut Examining Board for Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians and Department of Public Health to create of an apprenticeship program for barbering.

The Department of Public Health is the agency that licenses barbers in Connecticut and the Department of Labor is the lead agency for apprenticeship programs. In February 2014, the Department of Labor issued the following report: "A Report on the Feasibility of Establishing a Barbershop Apprenticeship Program within the Labor Department". The Department of Public Health is happy to work with the Department of Labor and the proponents of this bill to review substitute language that would create the apprenticeship program under the purview of the Department of Labor.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Department's view on this bill.