



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

February 23, 2015

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

House Bill # 5528 - An Act Concerning Continuing Education for Health Care Providers Who Prescribe Narcotic Drugs

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to House Bill #5528, which would require health care providers authorized to prescribe narcotic drugs to complete one hour of continuing education during each license registration period on the topic of controlled substances.

The Department strongly supports the concept of this bill as a measure to address the growing public health issue of opioid dependence and overdose deaths related to the use of prescribed narcotics. DPH has recently collaborated with the Connecticut State Medical Society to promote and provide continuing education opportunities on opioid prescribing to physicians and other health care providers in Connecticut.

While the Department strongly supports the concept of this bill, we encourage the Committee to endorse the Governor's Bill, No. 6856, An Act Concerning Substance Abuse and Opioid Overdose Prevention. The Governor's bill mandates continuing education for prescribers, but also includes other measures that will more comprehensively address issues related to this important issue.

The Department is thankful for the opportunity to comment on this bill and appreciates the efforts of the Legislature this session to address the issue of prescription opioid dependence and opioid overdose deaths in Connecticut.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*