



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 #5625 - An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery

The Department of Public Health (DPH) does not support House Bill # 5625 as written, which would amend the general statutes to include a definition of surgery.

The Department is not necessarily opposed to defining surgery in Connecticut statutes, and has conveyed to the Connecticut State Medical Society its willingness to participate in a collaborative process that includes the full range of professions potentially impacted by such definition.

The broad language in this proposed bill could impact the current practice of some licensed professions such as physical therapists, acupuncturists, tattoo artists, and electrologists. For example, this language could prohibit physical therapists from performing wound debridement. The Department also recently heard from members of the electrology board about how this proposed language could impact their profession.

Furthermore, the language in this proposed bill would create a conflict with general statute 19a-903c, established pursuant to Public Act 14-119 regarding medical spas that defined which professions can perform cosmetic medical procedures.

The Department is willing to participate in a collaborative process to define surgery, but does not support this bill as written due to the impact it could have on some professions.

Thank you for considering the Department's view on this legislation.