



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 4, 2015**

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

**HB 6279 - An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Monitoring, Continuing Education and the  
Return of Unused Prescription Drugs**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to House Bill #6279, which would require health care providers authorized to prescribe narcotic drugs to complete continuing education on prescription drugs and pain management; register with and use the prescription drug monitoring program; and require pharmacies to allow the return of unused prescription drugs.

While the Department supports the spirit of the concepts in 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 includes similar mandates, but also proposes other measures that will more comprehensively address issues related to the important issue of opioid prescribing.

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.