



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 16, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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House Bill 6881 - AN ACT CONCERNING INDOOR AIR QUALITY AT ICE HOCKEY RINKS

The Department of Public Health (DPH) *opposes* House Bill 6881. This bill requires the DPH to study the need to regulate indoor air quality at ice hockey rinks and report findings to the legislature.

The DPH has previously reviewed the potential for the presence of elevated carbon monoxide (CO) levels in indoor ice rinks. This issue is a concern if improperly maintained ice resurfacing equipment and other combustion engine-drive equipment are being used in indoor rinks. As a result, the DPH Indoor Air Quality Unit developed a guidance document, [Guidance on Maintaining Indoor Air Quality in Indoor Ice Rinks for Managers, Owners and Coaches](#). This document outlines standard operating procedures in order to properly maintain a healthy and safe environment, and details measures needed to identify and correct indoor air quality problems. The guidance document was sent to all indoor ice rink managers in Connecticut and local health departments (LHDs) in January 2014 to educate them about the potential health hazards associated with the operation of indoor ice rinks. It was sent to LHDs again in November 2014 with our annual winter carbon monoxide poisoning alert.

Given its prior review of this issue, the DPH maintains that an additional study of indoor air quality at indoor ice rinks would be duplicative. Further, any subsequent regulation of indoor air quality at indoor ice rinks would require additional resources, which would result in a fiscal impact to the DPH.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.