



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

February 20, 2015

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

Senate Bill 250 An Act Concerning Art Therapy

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to Senate Bill 250, which mandates the Department to create a new licensure category for clinical art therapy.

The legislature established a scope of practice review process (CGS 19a-16d) for the submission to and review by DPH of requests from health care professions seeking to revise or establish a scope of practice prior to review by the General Assembly. DPH has not received a submission for a scope of practice review for art therapists since this process was implemented in 2012.

The scope of practice review process allows other professions that may be directly impacted by a scope of practice request to identify the nature of that impact and participate in the scope of practice review process. The process also allows for an assessment of any public health and safety risks that may be associated with the request, whether the request may enhance access to quality and affordable health care and whether the request enhances the ability of the profession to practice to the full extent of the profession's education and training. In the absence of this process and the information that it provides, the Department opposes SB 250.

The establishment of a new licensure category would also create a fiscal impact on the Department. Consequently, due to the additional resources that would be needed to implement the requirements associated with this bill, the Department is not supportive at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's opinion on this bill.