



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Public Health
February 23, 2015**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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Senate Bill # 681 - An Act Concerning Background Checks For Home Health Agency Employees

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) offers the following information in regards to Senate Bill 681.

Section 19a-491c of the Connecticut General Statutes mandates the Department of Public Health to implement a criminal history and patient abuse background search program which includes state and federal fingerprint checks in which all employees with direct patient access in various health care settings will be mandated to participate. It is anticipated that the program will be implemented in 2015. The program will initially include nursing home providers; however home health agencies will be transitioned into the background check process during the course of 2015.

Currently, Connecticut General Statues, section 19a-491d provides that all prospective employees of a home health agency submit to a comprehensive background check.

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