



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony

Committee on Children

March 3, 2016



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## H.B. NO. 5301 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ANALGESIC PRESCRIPTONS ISSUED TO MINORS

The Department of Children and Families **supports** H.B. No. 5301, An Act Concerning Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions Issue to Minors. This bill would require prescribing practitioners to obtain parental consent for opioid analgesic prescriptions issued to patients under the age of eighteen.

Opioid analgesics are often prescribed for pain relief for a variety of ailments. Unfortunately, they often create a level of dependence upon young people with can lead to an opioid addiction.

DCF continues to see the impact of families impacted by opioid use disorders. Last year, the Governor proposed and the General Assembly approved, a provision to reconstitute the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council (ADPC) as a statewide coordinating body to fight the spread of substance abuse and overdose. Under the direction of Governor Malloy, the ADPC has been charged to study and make recommendations in the following areas:

- Best practices in the treatments of alcohol and substance use disorders, including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and other evidence-based treatment programs;
- A coordinated, audience specific, prevention message including modern messaging to be used by school districts, parents, medical professionals, municipal leaders, state agencies, and law enforcement;
- A collaborative effort, with medical professionals including doctors, nurse practitioners, dentists and physician assistants to educate all prescribers on the dangers of overprescribing narcotics and the current best practices in identifying substance use disorder and the resource available for treatment; and
- A strategy to make the overdose reversing drug naloxone widely available and affordable to first responders, in pharmacies, and to any individual who may be able to use it to reverse an overdose.

Governor Malloy has introduced H.B. No. 5053, An Act Increasing Access to Overdose Reversal Drugs, will make naloxone and other opioid antagonists more readily available to first responders and will prohibit insurers from requiring prior authorization of the opioid antagonist. We know, based on the 60+ lives saved by State Police personnel over the past year and a half, that increasing access statewide will save more lives.

The provisions in this H.B. 5301 build on these initiatives of the Governor and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council. I respectfully request that you take favorable action on this bill to continue to build on our momentum to address this very serious issue.