



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut General Assembly  
Children's Committee  
Testimony of Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell  
March 3, 2016

Good morning Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Senator Martin, Representative Kokoruda, and members of the Children's Committee, I am Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of the Department of Education, and I would like to offer you testimony today regarding **Raised Bill 5303, An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity**.

The department would like to express our concerns with subsections (b), (c) & (d) of Section 1.

Connecticut Public Health Code 19a-79-6a requires that meals and snacks served in a licensed child day care center and/or group day care home meet the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Meal Pattern requirements. This is true whether they are made and served at the center/home or brought from home by parents. There is a new USDA proposed Meal Pattern rule for the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) expected to be released in April of 2016 and therefore will be required in child care centers and homes according to the Public Health Code 19a-79-6a. It will be based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and scientific recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine. Therefore, the Department cautions the committee regarding taking any action on these specific subsections until the new USDA Meal Pattern is released. We recommend maintaining adherence to the Public Health Code that requires child day care centers and/or group day care homes to provide meals in compliance with the USDA Meal Pattern.