

**March 2, 2016**

**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health in support of HB 5131-An Act Establishing a Task Force on Nail Salons and Nail Technicians**

The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH), comprised of Connecticut's local health directors, works to strengthen public health throughout the state. To that end, we write in strong support of the HB 5131 to establish a task force on nail salons and nail technicians.

There are several health risks associated with nail services many of which result from poor ventilation, failure to use protective clothing and unhygienic practices. Failure to properly sanitize tools and equipment and other unsanitary practices expose workers and clients alike to bacterial and fungal infections. Measures must be taken to ensure that a licensed, trained workforce is employed in these nail salons, as well as to ensure that the health of nail salon workers is also protected. These workers are at high risk of dermatitis, allergic reactions, respiratory disorders and musculoskeletal injury.

Local Health Departments have an important role in responding to complaints of unsanitary practices as well as in educating the public about how to best avoid frequenting unsanitary facilities. The wellbeing of nail salon employees is also important and workers must be empowered to refuse to provide services to customers who may place them at risk for infection, injury or abuse. CADH supports the establishment of a taskforce on nail salons and nail technicians, and would like to encourage the inclusion of local public health representatives on this taskforce.