



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 2, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, MD, MPH
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Senate Bill #291 - An Act Concerning Telehealth Providers' Access to Patient Records

The Department of Public Health (DPH) offers the following information on Senate Bill 291. This bill would allow a telehealth provider to provide telehealth services to a patient when that provider has only the patient's medical history as provided by the patient. This proposal would eliminate the current requirement that the telehealth provider also have access to the patient's health record.

The Department acknowledges that there are instances when the patient's medical history, as provided by the patient, may be sufficient to appropriately treat a patient via telehealth technology. However, there are times when a patient may not recall or provide all the details of their medical history that might be in the medical record. Examples of such details could be an allergy to a particular medication or substance abuse history.

The Department is concerned that the language in this bill would provide blanket permission for a telehealth provider to rely solely on a patient to provide their own medical history, which could lead to serious, unintended consequences.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's view of this proposal.