



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 1, 2016**

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill #299 - An Act Concerning the Adoption of Regulations to Establish Minimum Standards for School-Based Health Centers.**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to Senate Bill #299. This bill mandates that the Department create regulations regarding minimum quality standards for school based health centers, following the time frames listed under chapter 54. Under current law, the adoption of these regulations is subject to the Commissioner's discretion. School based health centers are currently licensed as outpatient clinics by the Department. Outpatient clinics already have a set of regulations they need to follow that fall under section 19-13-D45 through D53 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies, therefore eliminating the need for regulations to be created in an urgent manner.

Over the past year, the Department has been working with the School Based Health Care Advisory Committee on guidelines. These guidelines were recently completed and will be forwarded to the Public Health Committee and Education Committee in a report mandated by Section 19a-6r of the 2016 supplement. The guidelines will assist the Department when adding to and revising the outpatient clinic regulations. DPH will act to incorporate these provisions into the current outpatient clinic regulations along with making any further updates to the same regulations. The Department has concerns that changing the "may" to a "shall" would not allow time to complete a full review of the outpatient regulations, including receiving comments from stakeholders who practice in all types of outpatient clinic settings, not only those that are school-based.

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

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