



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 7, 2016

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

Senate Bill #351 An Act Concerning Matters Affecting Physicians and Hospitals

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has concerns with sections 2 and 3 of this bill which will impose a certificate of need requirement on any entity, including an insurance company or other non-health related entity, that seeks to acquire a large group practice. As drafted, Sections 2 and 3 would exponentially increase the amount of certificate of need applications filed with the Department's Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) each year. The result would be a task that OHCA is unable to accomplish within existing resources.

In addition, the DPH has concerns regarding section 7 of Senate Bill 351 which mandates the Commissioner of Public Health to study the licensure of limited service health clinics and report to the Public Health Committee by December 1, 2016.

The Department currently licenses outpatient clinics pursuant to section 19-13-D45 through D53 of the regulations of Connecticut state agencies. While there is no description in this bill of what would be considered a "limited service health clinic", the Department feels that the scope of these entities would fall within the licensure category of outpatient clinic.

The Department feels that the mandates in this bill are duplicative of the work we are already doing but would welcome further discussion with members of the Public Health Committee to listen to their thoughts on what they would consider a "limited service clinic" and determine whether legislation is needed to accomplish the goals of this proposed bill. The requirement for a study and report would add to the Department's workload, thus diverting scarce agency resources from other core public health activities.

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

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