



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Safety & Security
Committee**

March 1, 2016

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

***Raised Bill No. 5272 - AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTION AND WARNING
EQUIPMENT IN BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.***

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports this bill and suggests consideration of alternative language to strengthen the provisions. This bill mandates each business firm to equip its regular place of business with carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment by January 1, 2017.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning is deadly, and can often occur when least suspected. In February 2014, one worker died and 29 others, including rescue workers, restaurant workers, and patrons were taken to area hospitals after being overcome by CO in a Long Island, NY restaurant located in a mall. Unfortunately, this widely publicized case was not an isolated incident. The DPH strongly supports requiring CO detection and warning equipment in businesses to protect both workers and patrons.

This bill also seeks to amend subsection (d) of section 29-453 to remove the language regarding "present in parts per million". The DPH suggests consideration of the following alternative language to more precisely state the testing and certification requirements for CO detection and warning equipment in businesses and residential buildings:

(d) Any carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall (1) be capable of sensing carbon monoxide, [present in parts per million,] (2) be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, (3) be a type of technology that is readily available for retail sale, (4) be tested and certified pursuant to the most recent version of the American National Standards Institute/Underwriters Laboratories and [(3)] (5) be capable of providing an alarm suitable to warn occupants when such equipment is activated. Such equipment may be operated using batteries.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.