

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

### Connecticut Department of Public Health Testimony Presented Before the Appropriations Committee February 18, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, MD, MPH**

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Dr. Raul Pino, recently nominated Commissioner of Public Health, and I am here to testify in support of the Governor's Midterm Budget for state fiscal year 2017.

I would like to highlight several areas that demonstrate the department's commitment to improve performance, increase efficiencies and leverage available resources. These recent successes and the ability to face the challenges ahead are the result of a hardworking, professional and nationally recognized workforce that I am proud to represent.

- The department continues to prepare for National Public Health Accreditation with a goal to promote high performance and continuous quality improvement in the agency. Accreditation may become a future requirement for certain federal funding opportunities.
- We have incorporated the use of program dashboards designed to depict how the residents of Connecticut are faring in health improvement target areas such as heart disease, obesity, obtaining vaccinations, exposure to environmental risks, and many more as identified in the Healthy Connecticut 2020 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).
- DPH staff have participated in LEAN training and implemented projects to achieve improved efficiencies in the drinking water program, contracts and grants management, the tumor registry program, food inspector capacity building, the Office of Health Care Access, the physician investigation process, and the student internship program. Other initiatives focus on increasing efficiencies by implementing new technologies in the public health laboratory.
- We have begun implementing a new Connecticut Vital Record System (ConnVRS). This system allows hospitals to file births through a web based system. DPH will expand ConnVRS to register death records in



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## DPH Priorities for Core Services

- **Disease Prevention:** Continue work to prevent disease and promote wellness through education and programs
- **Surveillance:** Monitor infectious diseases, environmental and occupational health hazards and birth defects
- **Readiness:** Maintain capacity to plan for and respond to public health emergencies, natural and manmade disasters
- **Regulatory:** Regulate health care providers, including health facilities, health professionals and emergency medical services
- **Public Health Lab:** To provide testing, newborn screening and monitoring support through the state laboratory
- **Health Data Management:** To collect, analyze, share and distribute health data for use in planning future policy
- **Drinking Water:** To ensure a safe and adequate drinking water supply