



University of New Haven

*Testimony for the Public Health Committee
March 6, 2016*

The University of New Haven, Health Services acknowledges and supports the intention of Bill 5539 *An Act Concerning Meningitis Vaccines, which seeks to add the specific serogroup B meningococcal vaccine*. Although we support the future action of implementation, we are very concerned in respect to the timing of its effective date.

If the effective date of July 1, 2016 is maintained it would cause subsequent problems for our new incoming students who would need to comply with the new law. Many students who will be freshman fall 2016 have already been accepted, and some are already completing their medical forms to be sent in – this perspective new law will cause much confusion to these students and their families. Not to mention that the medical community/providers are just slowly implementing this new vaccine into their practices.

Our student health service is similar to many with-in our state, we do not bill for services, we depend on the student's private medical care provider to administer the required vaccines to meet Connecticut Regulation prior to their arrival on the campus.

Also as you are well informed that this newer Meningitis-B vaccine comes in either three (3) or two (2) dose series depending on the pharmaceutical manufacture of the vaccine. If the time frame of implementing the law remains the same our health services would not be able to help students comply with this new regulation since we would not have the vaccine to administer nor the additional staff resources.

We ask the legislature to consider deferring the mandatory requirement at least until the 2017-2018 academic year. This would allow additional time for education with-in the community of health care providers, students and families. We would also hope that this additional time would allow those new students to start their vaccine series to have it completed prior to arriving on campus.

As a health care professional who has been working in College Health for many years I am aware of the importance in implementing this new law, and I am totally in favor of its passing and compliancy of students in the future, not only for their individual protection but the greater protection of the community. Although at this point the Connecticut Colleges and Universities need some extra time. It is our hope that the legislature will hear our concerns, and defer the implementation date.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Cappuccia, RN
Director of Health Service
(203) 932-7079
pcappuccia@newhaven.edu