



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5757 Public Health Committee March 7, 2017

Chairmen Steinberg, Gerratana, and Somers, Ranking Member Srinivasan, and Members of the Public Health Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 5757: An Act Prohibiting the Department of Public Health From Requiring the Consolidation of Municipal Health Authorities.**

This bill is an important proposal that will prohibit the Department of Public Health from requiring the consolidation of municipal health authorities. The current system within our state allows for municipalities to maintain local health districts, and I would encourage the Committee to keep this structure as it presently is.

I also stand before you in support of three other similar bills on the Committee's Public Hearing agenda today- House Bill 5169, House Bill 6033, and House Bill 5765, and to encourage the Committee to support these proposals which will also prevent the Connecticut Department of Public Health from requiring the consolidation of municipal health authorities. Local health districts are a valuable resource for the community members they serve, and offer a close and immediate relationship with their residents. Forcing these health authorities to consolidate may create confusion for the towns they serve, and eliminate local

offerings to towns.

Again, I urge the Public Health Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5757, which will allow for the existing health district structure to be maintained, and to prohibit the Department of Public Health from requiring consolidation of municipal health authorities. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue, and to pass legislation allowing municipalities the authority to keep their municipal health districts as they are.