



Testimony to the Public Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

March 5, 2018

Regarding

House Bill 5163, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes

[LeadingAge Connecticut](#) is a statewide membership organization representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of aging services, including not-for-profit skilled nursing facilities, residential care homes, home health care agencies, hospice agencies, adult day centers, assisted living communities, senior housing and life plan communities. On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut I am pleased to provide testimony on *House Bill 5163, An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes*.

Sections 12-13 Mandatory Reporting for Health Care Associated Infections

The bill now defines "health care setting" as "*any location where health care is provided by a licensed health care professional.*" There is also a definition of "health care facility" that references "*health care institution licensed under this chapter*" which would include home health care agencies, nursing homes residential care homes, and assisted living agencies. The Department of Public Health already has broad purview in the statute and it appears that these proposed changes attempt to clarify the mandatory reporting system. However, we do wonder whether the legislation should be clearer as to which types of facilities and/or providers will be required to report to the Department under the new definitions.

Section 21: Exemption from the Provision of the Food Code

LeadingAge Connecticut represents the not-for-profit residential care homes in the state and we support the proposed exemption from the provisions of the food code for residential care homes with thirty or less beds as outlined in the bill. We would also support the testimony of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes which calls for expanding the proposed exemption to all residential care homes.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify on this bill. Please consider us to be a resource to you as you consider this and other issues related to aging services.

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