



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

February 28, 2018

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

Senate Bill 171 – An Act Concerning Doctor of Physical Therapy Designation

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to Senate Bill 171, which would prohibit individuals from using the term “Doctor of Physical Therapy” or “D.P.T” unless they are licensed physical therapists. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

DPH has no concerns with adding the term “Doctor of Physical Therapy” to the list of terms that a licensed physical therapist can use, pursuant to section 20-73 of the general statutes. However, DPH would like to note that there are some licensed physical therapists without doctoral level training, and the language as written would not prohibit such licensed physical therapists from using the “D.P.T.” designation. Therefore, we respectfully request the language in the bill be clarified to only allow a licensed physical therapist who has obtained their degree in “Doctor of Physical Therapy” to use this title. The Department offers the following substitute language for your review and consideration:

(a) (1) No person may practice as a physical therapist unless licensed pursuant to this chapter. No person may use the term "Registered Physical Therapist", "Licensed Physical Therapist", "Doctor of Physical Therapy" or "Physical Therapist" or the letters "R.P.T.", "L.P.T.", "D.P.T." or any other letters, words or insignia indicating or implying licensure as a physical therapist in this state unless the person is so licensed and, for doctors of physical therapy, has attained such degree.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.