



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 20, 2018

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
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House Bill 5292 - An Act Requiring A Study Of The Licensure Of Birthing Centers

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information regarding House Bill 5292, which requires a study of the independent licensure of birthing centers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

DPH licenses and inspects maternity hospitals, which are defined in [Section 19-13-D14](#) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies as a place in which women are received for professional care because of pregnancy. Inspections are conducted every two years to ensure compliance with the regulations, and license renewal occurs subsequent to the inspection. The Department currently licenses one maternity hospital, which is a deinstitutionalized, home-like setting that has midwives and advanced practice registered nurses in attendance and utilizes a medical director model. The licensure requirements for this type of facility appear to closely align with those contemplated in the new definition of “birthing center”.

Since the Department already regulates maternity hospitals, we do not see the need to study licensure of birthing centers.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.