



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 20, 2018

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

House Bill 5300 - An Act Requiring A Study Of Optional Admission Into An Adoption Registry

The Department of Public Health (DPH) does not support House Bill 5300 as written, which would require the Department, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), to study the feasibility of establishing an adoption registry to provide a means by which a registrant may authorize or prohibit the release of identifying information to others involved in the adoption of a person. The bill would also require the Department of Public Health to report the findings of the study to the General Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

[Section 45a-755](#) of the general statutes requires DCF, and each child placing agency involved in an adoption or termination or parental rights, to maintain registries in which a registrant may consent, or refuse to consent, to the release of identifying information. DCF and child placing agencies are also required to maintain registries containing medical information for adopted children. In contrast, the Department of Public Health has no involvement or expertise in these “adoption reunion registries” or medical information registries, nor any other aspect of the adoption process other than amending the birth certificate for those adopted persons who were born in Connecticut.

Given DPH does not have role in maintaining the adoption reunion and medical information registries, it is not appropriate for the Department to head the proposed study which relates to such matters, or to be responsible for reporting the study findings to the General Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.