



*Chairman:*  
Patricia J. Checko  
Berlin, CT

*Vice-Chairman:*  
Michele Sadlosky  
Newington, CT

*Secretary-Treasurer:*  
Charles K. Brown, Jr.  
Director of Health

Kevin Borrup  
Newington, CT

Ann Marie Diloreto  
Wethersfield, CT

Barbara Gilbert  
Rocky Hill, CT

Deborah P. Henault  
Wethersfield, CT

Raymond Jarema  
Berlin, CT

Lecia Paonessa  
Berlin, CT

John Richter  
Newington, CT

Judith A. Sartucci  
Rocky Hill, CT

Marti Stiglich  
Rocky Hill, CT

**TO:** Co-Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee

**DATE:** March 4, 2019

**RE:** Testimony on Bill# **HB 7200 TOBACCO 21, HB 6543 PHARMACISTS PRESCRIBING SMOKING CESSATION PRODUCTS and # HB 7196 SEATBELT USE BY ALL PASSENGERS**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD). Our agency has been serving nearly 100,000 people in the four member towns, Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield, since 1996.

We **strongly support HB 7200** to prohibit the sale of all tobacco and nicotine products to persons under the age of 21. This proposal would

- Cover all tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.
- Provide public education and training and technical assistance to retailers.
- Ban sale of flavored cigarettes or tobacco products, except menthol, mint and wintergreen. These should also be banned since they also mask the irritation associated with unflavored tobacco, and the strong evidence linking them to increased use, particularly in minority populations.
- Implement measures for active enforcement, such as retailer licensing and penalties, including license suspension and revocation.

We **strongly oppose HB 6543** which would allow pharmacists to prescribe smoking cessation products. Nicotine patches, gum, and lozenges are all over the counter products. Bupropion (Zyban) and Varenicline (Chantix), require a prescription from a licensed, medical provider authorized to do so. As with all prescribed medications, they have side effects and contraindications that need to be considered and monitored that require the provider to know the person's health issues. We have allowed pharmacists to give influenza and some vaccines to adults, and there are bills proposing to expand that to children >12. They are not medically trained or authorized to "prescribe" drugs, and should not be allowed to work outside their scope of practice as this waiver would do.

Finally, we **support HB 5196** as yet another means to reduce unintentional injury in automobiles on the State's roads by requiring seats belt use for all passengers in all seating positions. There is considerable literature noting increased risk of serious injury and death to passengers not wearing seatbelts, regardless of where they were sitting.

Thank you.

2080 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
[www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org)

PUBLIC HEALTH for BERLIN, NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL, WETHERSFIELD



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Sincerely

Charles K. Brown Jr., MPH

Director of Health

2080 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
[www.ccthd.org](http://www.ccthd.org)

PUBLIC HEALTH for BERLIN, NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL, WETHERSFIELD

