March 6, 2020

Written testimony from
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
Connecticut ENT Society
Connecticut Urology Society

On

H.B. No. 5184 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY NOTIFICATION.
H.B. No. 5186 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SAFE DRINKING WATER.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), water safety and quality are fundamental to human development and well-being. Providing access to safe water is one of the most effective methods to promote health and reduce poverty.

As the international authority on public health and water quality, WHO leads global efforts to prevent transmission of waterborne disease. This is achieved by promoting health-based regulations to govern governments and working with partners to promote effective risk management practices to water suppliers, communities and households.

When setting state drinking-water quality regulations and standards, the above mentioned societies ask this committee to consider implementing the WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ). To better understand the extent to which the GDWQ are used and reflected in these standards, this global review summarizes information from 104 countries and territories on values specified in national drinking-water quality standards for aesthetic, chemical, microbiological and radiological parameters.

The link provided below will permit regulatory agencies and other key stakeholders to access and compare data when setting or revising state drinking-water quality regulations and standards.

A global overview of national regulations and standards for drinking-water quality
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https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272345/9789241513760-eng.pdf?ua=1

We thank this committee for highlighting clean water as a front and center public health issue, and for promoting the quality of water for Connecticut citizens.