



Connecticut Department of Public Health

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health and Insurance and
Real Estate Committees**

March 15, 2021

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[House Bill 5596](#), An Act Concerning Telehealth

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is opposed to House Bill 5596, which would require the Department to study the benefits and implications of expanding the provision of telehealth services in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

The use of telehealth expanded significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Telehealth allows individuals to access their healthcare providers in a safe manner. However, the Department feels that a study of expanding telehealth services is unnecessary due to research that has already been conducted by national organizations, such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DPH would like to suggest that existing literature be used to assist the General Assembly in its decision making related to telehealth.

An example of the existing literature that is pertinent to the expansion of telehealth is a white paper entitled [The Evidence Base for Telehealth: Reassurance in the Face of Rapid Expansion During the COVID-19 Pandemic. This report was](#) published by the DHHS Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. This document was developed to assist decision makers when considering telehealth and references other research that has been done on this topic.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. DPH encourages committee members to reach out with any questions.

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