



Testimony Regarding S.B. 16: An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding Public Health

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Public Health Committee
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Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg, Representative Betts, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Karen Siegel, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that all Connecticut children have an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential. This testimony refers only to the sections of the proposed bill that relate to the Office of Health Strategy.

We support this effort to enable the Office of Health Strategy to effectively lead health systems coordination and data integration efforts for Connecticut. We recently reported on the need for coordination of efforts such as the All-Payer Claims Database, the State Innovation Model data dashboard, and other data portals to improve the state's ability to track racial disparities in health and evaluate interventions intended to impact these disparities.¹ The Office of Health Strategy is well positioned to advance these efforts. In addition, we support the Office of Health Strategy's goals of coordinating innovations and working with communities to improve health in the state across agencies and systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 16. I can be reached with any questions at ksiegel@ctvoices.org or at 203-498-4240, ext. 120.

¹ Connecticut Voices for Children. (2018) "Data to Promote Health Equity for Children and Families in Connecticut." Retrieved from: <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/data-promote-health-equity-children-and-families-connecticut>