

PA 14-15

HB5146

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<u>Public Health</u>	<u>45-51, 632-638</u>	<u>14</u>
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 8
2370 - 2692**

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

384
April 25, 2014

of the Joint Standing Committee on Public Health,
House Bill Number 5146 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF
PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS BY YOUTH CAMPS
AND DAYCARE CENTERS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I move the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, madam?

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Yes. The reason for the bill is that we see a
number of forms are needed for youth camps, for
schools, for all different types of activities that
children engage in, and this was brought to our
attention by the good Representative Brenda Kupchick,
who had made some ideas known to us about how to try
and coordinate those forms so that there would be only
one form instead of multiple forms that doctors would
have to fill out.

There is an LCO amendment, LCO Number 4257 and

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I'd like to call that and be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4257, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4257 designated House "A" and offered by Representative Johnson and Senator Gerratana.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The gentlewoman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just a change because of the reorganization and restructuring of our agencies and the Public Health Department is no longer overseeing early childhood affairs.

So all this does is, in Line 18, change the language from Public Health to the Office of Early Childhood. I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, madam. The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment "A". Will you remark?

If not, if not, let me try your minds. If not,

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let me try your minds. All those in favor of House
Amendment "A", please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The
Amendment is adopted. ...

Would you care to remark on the bill as amended?

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill, the universal
health form is a win-win situation for both the
physician and the physician offices on the one hand,
that they do not have to fill numerous forms for a
child and of course for the family, they do not have
to go back to the doctor's office on numerous
occasions to fill the form.

So this is a work in progress, I think for over
two years now, and I do want to thank our
Representative, good Representative Brenda Kupchick
for bringing it to our attention last year and in the
work of that and her persistence in making sure that
we work on it this year so that the bill becomes a
reality.

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And I urge adoption as well and that both sides of the aisle will help us in passing this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Do you care to remark further on the bill as amended? The aforementioned Representative Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just wanted to say that Senator McKinney and I have been working on this bill for quite some time because we heard from doctors and parents who were filling out a lot of forms, and I really appreciate the good Chairwoman Representative Johnson and Representative Srinivasan's help shepherding this along over the last couple of years and I'm excited that the bill's here today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

As always, thank you, madam. Would you care to remark further? Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen of the Chamber, a few moments ago we adopted an Amendment on this bill and at that time the Speaker said I want

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to try your minds. I want to try your minds.

I've been here 22 years and never understood where the hell that came from.

So, Mr. Speaker, what does that mean?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Cafero, I believe that was on the Amendment. We're now on the bill.

(Applause.)

Nonetheless, thank you for your question. We'll get back to that at some other time.

Are there any other comments on the bill as amended? If not, I'm not going to try your minds.

Staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the

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Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

H.B. 5146 as amended by House "A".

Total number voting 130

Necessary for passage 66

Those voting Yea 130

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 20

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 42.

THE CLERK:

On Page 36, House Calendar 42, Favorable Report
of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,
Substitute House Bill 5309 AN ACT CONCERNING ABANDONED
VESSELS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The distinguished Chairman of the Committee on
the Environment, Representative Gentile. You have the
floor, madam.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for
acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report
and passage of the bill.

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

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PART 6
1656 - 1970**

Madam President, if the Clerk would call as the next item Calendar page 41, Calendar 395, Senate Bill 104, to be followed, Madam President, by Calendar page five, Calendar 295, Senate Bill 445, and also, Madam President, Calendar page 26, Calendar 497, House Bill 5081, as the next three items.

And also in addition, Madam President, I have another item to add to our Consent Calendar, and that is the matter which suspended to take up and mark go a while ago. That is Calendar page 29, Calendar 511, House Bill 5146. If that item might be placed on our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, sir, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 41, Calendar 395, substitute for Senate Bill Number 104, AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR THE UNCOMPENSATED CARE, Favorable Report of the Committee on Human Services. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Good evening, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

On page five, Calendar 295, Senate Bill 445.

On page nine, Calendar 342, House Bill 5098.

And on page 10, Calendar 343, House Bill 5259.

On page 13, Calendar 404, Senate Bill 456.

Page 14, Calendar 408, Senate Bill 489.

On page 16, Calendar 430, House Bill 5285.

On page 18, Calendar 439, House Bill 5540.

On page 26, Calendar 497, House Bill 5081.

And on page 29, Calendar 511, House Bill 5146.

Page 30, Calendar 53, Senate Bill 203, and Calendar 95, Senate Bill 176.

On page 31, Calendar 116, Senate Bill 430.

Page 38, Calendar 280, Senate Bill 312.

And on page 41, Calendar 395, Senate 104.

THE CHAIR:

I guess that's all it. Okay.

Mr. Clerk, will you please open the machines and -- I'll open the machines. You call for a roll call vote.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call is ordered in the Senate on today's Consent Calendar. Immediate roll call ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar.
Total number voting 35
Those voting Yea 35
Those voting Nay 0
Absent and not voting 1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, before concluding today's session, would yield the floor to members who may wish to announce Committee meetings or for other points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Are there points of personal privilege? Senator Fasano.

SENATOR FASANO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, while I enjoyed being at the circle today, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish my wife a very happy birthday today.

THE CHAIR:

Oh my goodness.

SENATOR FASANO:

I missed the birthday dinner, but it -- I can't think of another group to spend it with other than my wife. So happy birthday to my wife.

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
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Well, is she there? Here she is. Okay. That's okay.

Good morning.

REP. KUPCHICK: Thank you for the opportunity to be here today to speak on behalf of this legislation.

HB5146

And I'll just read my testimony. I don't know if you got a copy of it. I did get it in this morning.

Two years ago, I was contacted by a friend whose son's doctor shared the paperwork challenges he and the other doctors have with yearly health forms.

Since I submitted this bill last session, I heard from many more doctors, and still even more parents, who support the idea of a single form.

Every year, parents drop forms from numerous camps, activities, sports, daycare centers, all requiring the basic information needed; immunizations, any health problems, allergies. However, each organization has a different format for their form.

Some doctors charge a fee to fill out multiple forms, as it takes a lot of time away from their administrative staff's time. It's also a burden for parents who need to continually visit the doctor's office to drop and pick up health forms for every activity.

Connecticut should work with the doctors and organizations to produce a universal health form for all activities located in our state's borders and simply -- or simply modify the form that our public schools use now.

I'm hopeful the Committee will agree to pass a bill that will direct the Department of Public Health to work with doctors and organizations to produce a universal healthcare form.

And if I could, I -- had a -- we have a large pediatric practice in our town that serves Fairfield, Trumbull, Monroe, Stratford, Shelton, a huge -- a -- a large area.

And one of the doctors submitted testimony to me late last night, which I had my aid give to the Clerk, but you might not have it. And he says -- this is from Dr. Thomas Homa from Fairfield Pediatrics Associates.

And he says, "This letter is to voice my support in Bill -- for Bill H.B. 5146, which would require the use of a public school assessment form by youth camps and daycare facilities.

"As a practicing pediatrician in Connecticut for the past 12 years, my colleagues and I have been frustrated with the variety of different health forms required by schools, daycare facilities, sports camps, youth organizations.

"Each form requires different information, some -
- some simple and some are complex.

"Our practice has been countless hours that are wasted gathering specific information for different forms.

"This leads to less time for our support staff, nurses, and doctors to do their jobs, which ultimately means less time with their patients.

"This process all leads to frustrated parents, patients, and doctors who have to wait long periods for completion of forms.

"For doctors -- for years, doctors have wished for a single simple standard health form that could be used for all entities that require a health form.

"This legislation not only makes sense, but will decrease costs and increase satisfaction for our healthcare system."

And he says, "Thank you for your consideration in this matter."

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Representative.

I think the Committee, in theory, agrees with you that there should be some sort of way to streamline this -- this whole process, which is why we're hearing the bill again this year.

But we'd like to know from you what you would suggest. Do you want the Department of Public Health to produce a form? Department of Education?

REP. KUPCHICK: Well, I mean --

SENATOR GERRATANA: What -- I mean, how would we go about doing this in -- in a way?

REP. KUPCHICK: Well, I mean, I'm just a layperson; a parent, a Legislator.

But I would imagine just based on from what the doctors are saying that public health -- the public health -- the public school health form that every parent has to have filled out prior to their child entering a public school is just basic information. Immunizations, allergy information, any past illnesses. Those types of things.

If you look at all of these -- the -- you know,

the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the -- the hockey camp, the soccer camp, you know, the everything. The arts -- even the arts, you know, even the non-athletic will want you to produce a health form.

They are basically asking for the same thing. They're just slightly different.

So I don't know if it would actually be the Department of Public Health. I don't know who produces the -- the public school --

SENATOR GERRATANA: I think it's through the Department of Education. I'm -- I don't want to misspeak, but I think it is.

And I also think that that form is rather long, if you will, and has a lot more information that may be applicable.

I mean, we've been here before in trying to determine. And I -- and I think I would ask that you would help us in that.

Maybe you could do some research and find out what is on that form exactly and perhaps work on language that would say that this would be acceptable, the submittal of this form, if, you know, the parents wish to do so to these youth and day camps -- youth camps and day camps and so forth, if that is appropriate.

Again, I'm not sure exactly all the information that are on those forms, but in place of having to fill out the various, you know, paperwork if you will.

REP. KUPCHICK: I would absolutely be happy to do that.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you.

REP. KUPCHICK: I will --

SENATOR GERRATANA: Good.

REP. KUPCHICK: -- work with my staff and I'll also contact the Department of education and the Department of Public Health and see if we can -- if I can bring some information. I'll send it directly to the two chairs, that you can share with the Committee.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you. Thank you.

REP. KUPCHICK: It shows the different health forms.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Good. Are there any other questions? Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Good morning and thank you for being here this -- this morning with -- afternoon. No, it's good morning. For -- with your testimony.

If memory serves me right, as our good Chair said, you -- you come to this path last year. And it was my understanding that if some groups of people who run camps or that, this, or the other, that were opposed to -- to this universal form.

I mean, not that I could understand why. And obviously, in my -- my other life as a physician, I would be thrilled to have just one form and just make a copy of that and keep giving it out to the patients, rather than having to individualize every particular form.

So this would be a godsend for all of us. But if you can just tell us if you have heard any -- any groups that have reservations or concerns about this universal form?

REP. KUPCHICK: You know, I -- I actually didn't. I heard through the grapevine, no one directly, but I did hear through the grapevine the Boy Scouts had some concerns.

But other than that, I hadn't heard anything, and I didn't know exactly what their concerns were. They didn't reach out to myself or Senator McKinney, who was involved with the bill last session, but I'd be happy to reach out to them to find out.

Although, I just feel that if it's just basic health information, and if we can include the things that they feel are important, that it really makes a huge difference.

You're talking about saving hundreds of hours for -- for doctors, hundreds of hours. This is, you know, something that I hadn't even really thought of until I was told about it myself.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you. And I would appreciate that if you could get back to the Boy Scouts if, as you said, you heard through the grapevine what the concerns are.

REP. KUPCHICK: I will.

REP. SRINIVASAN: And then get back to the Committee and try to include what they need. And -- that's what I heard. I couldn't remember the group, but there was something that they wanted, is to tell, but not on the form, and maybe address that so the form, in its true sense, is a universal form.

REP. KUPCHICK: Okay.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you.

REP. KUPCHICK: Thank you.

REP. SRINIVASAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

REP. KUPCHICK: Certainly.

Representative Sayers.

REP. SAYERS: Thank you. Thank you, Representative.

This is actually something that's been around for a while that comes up here periodically. And I'm not sure why it's always a problem, and it doesn't seem to go very far. But even the school system, if the child plays sports, they need additional paperwork and an additional physical for sports teams.

So it's -- it might be something that's well worth us investing some time in, to see if we could come up with a universal form.

So thank you very much for bringing it forward.

REP. KUPCHICK: Thank you.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you.

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.

And thank you, Representative, for your work on this. I know it's -- when you look at all the different areas where you have to find -- get some consensus, it's -- it makes it difficult. And I think that's probably why we've run into some trouble in the past.

So I just want to say thank you very much for bringing this forward again and we're looking forward to working with you on trying to bring every -- all the groups together so that we can come up with a consensus. So thanks so much.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 2
547 – 976**

2014



CONNECTICUT RECREATION
AND PARKS ASSOCIATION



**Public Health Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2014**

**Testimony on Raised Bill 5146 –
*AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS BY
YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS.***

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. (CRPA) is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to provide a network of support to our members through professional development and resources in order to enhance the quality of recreation and parks services in Connecticut. CRPA represents 600 individual professionals from municipal, nonprofit and private, park, recreation & camp organizations, as well as 128 of the 169 municipal park and recreation departments in Connecticut.

CRPA supports Raised Bill 5146 as it would allow the same health assessment forms utilized for school physicals to be used for daycare and camp admittance. This would eliminate the undue burden placed on parents who are forced to spend time and money having doctors fill out multiple forms, as some doctors are now charging per form.

In summary, CRPA supports this bill as written as it would streamline the enrollment process for parents who are registering their children for school, daycare, and camp. It would save parents time and money and expedite the registration process of a child into these programs.

Paul Roche, Chairman
Legislative Committee
Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association



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Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
Friday, February 28th, 2014
Testimony In Support of,
HB 5146, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS BY
YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS

This letter is to voice my support for bill HB 5146 which would require the use of a Public School Assessment form by youth camps and daycare facilities. As a practicing Pediatrician in Connecticut for the past 12 years, my colleagues and I have been frustrated with the variety of different health forms required by schools, day care facilities, youth camps and sports organizations. Each form requires different information-some are simple and some are complex. Our practice has spent countless hours that are wasted gathering specific information for different forms. This leads to less time for our support staff, nurses and doctors to do their jobs which ultimately means less time with our patients. This process also leads to frustrated patients and parents who may have to wait long periods for the completion of forms.

For years, doctors have wished for a standard simple health form that could be used for all entities that require a health form. This legislation not only makes sense but will decrease costs and increase satisfaction with our health care system. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Homa MD, FAAP
Pediatric Health Associates

Donna Kosiorowski MS RN NCSN
3 Henry Drive
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
203-929-4019 (phone)
skosiorowski@snet.net
Association of School Nurses of Connecticut

H.B. No. 5146 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORMS BY YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS.

Thank you to the Chairs of the Public Health Committee, Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson, and Committee Members for the opportunity to support Raised Bill HB 5146. It makes sense to have a universal form for all activities for children and youth. Contents of the form should align with the range of needs inherent in different programs.

Particularly for health care offices, the concept is especially attractive as it reduces the variety of forms currently in use. In addition, a universal health form will streamline the process for parents and guardians since they will be able to more readily access programs with a single standard form. Parents and guardians can copy the standard form for submission to a variety of programs they choose for their children.

From: Valerie Stolfi Collins <valerie.stolfi-collins@crpa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 3:13 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Cc: 'Marshall Collins, Esq.'; recking@ridgefieldct.org
Subject: Testimony for HB 5146 Public Hearing 2/28/2014
Attachments: CRPA HB 5146 Testimony_Final.pdf

Importance: High

Attached please find electronic testimony on HB 5146 for Friday's public hearing.

Thank you,

Valerie Stolfi Collins
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Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc.: "The Benefits are Endless!"



CONNECTICUT RECREATION
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**Public Health Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2014**

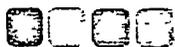
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YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS.***

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In summary, CRPA supports this bill as written as it would streamline the enrollment process for parents who are registering their children for school, daycare, and camp. It would save parents time and money and expedite the registration process of a child into these programs.

Paul Roche, Chairman
Legislative Committee
Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association



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**Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
Friday, February 28, 2014
Testimony In Support**

**HB 5146 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL HEALTH ASSESSMENT
FORMS BY YOUTH CAMPS AND DAY CARE CENTERS**

Dear Chairs Representative Susan M. Johnson, Senator Terry B. Gerratana, Ranking members Representative Prasad Srinivasan M.D., Senator Jason C. Welch, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of HB5146 regarding universal health forms.

Two years ago I was contacted by a friend whose son's doctor shared the paperwork challenges he and other doctors have with yearly health forms. Since I submitted a bill last session, I've heard from many more doctors and still more parents who support the idea of a single form.

Every year parents drop forms for numerous camps, activities, sports camps, day care centers etc all requiring the basic information needed, immunizations, any health problems, allergies etc, however, every organization has a different format for their health form.

Some doctors charge a fee to fill out multiple forms as it takes a lot of time away from their administrative staff's time. It's also a burden for parents who need to continually visit the doctor's office to drop and pick up health forms for every activity. Connecticut should work with doctors and organizations to produce a Universal Health Form for all activities located in our states borders or simply modify the form our public schools use.

I'm hopeful the committee will agree to pass a bill that would direct the Department of Public Health to work with doctors and organizations to produce a Universal Health Form for Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Kupchick".

Representative Brenda Kupchick

132nd district

Fairfield & Southport