

Testimony of

Deb Polun

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*Commenting on*

*H.B. 5030: An Act Implementing the Governor's  
Budget Recommendations for General Government (Section 82)*

Appropriations Committee

March 12, 2026

Thank you to the Appropriations Committee for allowing us the opportunity to provide comments regarding this proposal.

On behalf of the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHC/ACT), and its sixteen-member community health centers, I want to thank the Committee for its dedication to listening to Connecticut's residents about these important issues. Connecticut's community health centers serve more than 452,000 people each year – including over 262,000 HUSKY enrollees and 67,000 uninsured individuals – providing medical, behavioral health, dental, and some specialty care in hundreds of locations across the state.

The majority of this bill relates to the dismantling of the state's Office of Health Strategy (OHS), with its functions and elements redistributed throughout state government. Section 82 sends the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) to the Department of Social Services.

The CHWAB is composed of Community Health Workers and employers. According to its own web site, the "Community Health Worker (CHW) Advisory Body advises the Department of Public Health (DPH) on educational and certification requirements for Community Health Worker training programs....the advisory body conducts a continuous review of educational and certification programs and provides DPH a list of approved programs for community health workers."

**Therefore, CHC/ACT respectfully recommends that, if OHS is eliminated, the CHWAB be moved to the Department of Public Health instead of the Department of Social Services.**

This move would provide better alignment and coordination, allowing the CHWAB to make its recommendations to the agency in which it is housed and which provides CHW licensure/certification.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on behalf of our great state. Please feel free to reach out with any questions: [dpolun@chcact.org](mailto:dpolun@chcact.org) or 860.667.7820.