



Public Health Committee

Public Hearing – March 29, 2021

HB 6666- AAC The Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes- Sections 67 & 68

My name is Jim Williams, and I am the Government Relations Director for the American Heart Association in CT. The American Heart Association (AHA) is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Our mission is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives, and we take our mission very seriously here in CT.

I would like to thank the leadership and members of the Public Health Committee for providing me with the opportunity to comment on House Bill 6666, specifically Sections 67 & 68.

SECTION 67

We are in strong favor of Section 67, which recognizes thrombectomy-capable stroke centers as a certified stroke center, which is a needed and important update to existing statute.

SECTION 68

This section would create a statewide stroke registry. This would be an important strategy for enhancing stroke care across the state and to improve both health outcomes and quality of life for stroke survivors and their families. A centralized, statewide stroke registry would monitor for statewide trends in care and to explore potential disparities and inequities in the delivery of stroke care. Data aggregation and analysis will lead to implementing practice strategies for ensuring that all Connecticut citizens are afforded evidence-based standards of acute and recovery stroke care.

To accomplish this, we worked diligently with the State of CT Stroke Advisory Committee (SOC SAC) throughout the summer and fall leading up to the 2021 legislative session. Unfortunately, the language that is currently in Section 68 goes beyond what we had collectively agreed to and submitted to the committee. We request that this section, as currently written, either be withdrawn, and all interested parties encouraged to come together to find a consensus in language or amended with the below in lieu of what is there now.

Proposed Strike All Amendment to Section 68

a. The Department of Public Health (DPH) shall maintain a centralized, statewide stroke registry that compiles information and statistics on stroke care that align with the stroke Achievement Measures

developed and approved by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association and the Joint Commission and any additional measures the DPH determines appropriate.

b. The DPH, in collaboration with the State of Connecticut Stroke Advisory Council, shall establish and implement a plan for achieving continuous improvement in the quality of care and identifying and addressing inequities and disparities in stroke care.

c. The DPH shall utilize Get-With-The-Guidelines – Stroke or another nationally recognized data set platform, with appropriate confidentiality standards, as the stroke registry data platform. The DPH shall coordinate with current programs and personnel to avoid duplication and redundancy of efforts.

d. DPH shall require Comprehensive Stroke Centers, Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Centers and Primary Stroke Centers and encourage Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals and Emergency Medical Services agencies to report data consistent with nationally recognized guidelines on the treatment of individuals with confirmed stroke within the state.

e. The DPH, in collaboration with the State of Connecticut Stroke Advisory Council and other stakeholders, shall establish a stroke registry data oversight committee that is charged with monitoring registry operations; advising registry investigators, program staff, and relevant stroke systems of stroke stakeholders; and providing direction and plan short and long-term goals for the stroke systems of care, in quality improvement efforts, as well as overall sustainability of the stroke systems of care.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams
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