



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH**

**March 13, 2019**

Senators Abrams and Somers, Representatives Steinberg and Petit and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Jordan Scheff, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **S.B. No. 920 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.**

Specific to section 25 of the bill, DDS recently learned that the current language in section 17a-227a of the Connecticut General Statutes restricted the department's ability to provide a criminal history records check to all DDS employees that may have access to individuals with intellectual disability. As currently written, the statutory language only allows the department to submit a state and nation criminal history records check on applicants for employment that provide "direct services to persons with intellectual disability." As all DDS employees may have access to individuals with intellectual disability, not just those who provide direct services, the department is proposing to expand the scope of the statute to require that each applicant who has been made an offer of conditional employment by the department, would be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history records check.

Requiring fingerprinting and background checks for all applicants for DDS employment was the original intent of the language that passed last session as part of section 52 of **Public Act No. 18-168**. Additional changes in section 25 are technical in nature and codify current practice.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of **S.B. No. 920 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.** Please contact Krista Ostaszewski, DDS Director of Legislative Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with any follow up questions.