



*Written Testimony of the Department of Social Services  
Submitted to the Public Health Committee  
February 10, 2017*

**H.B. No. 5660 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELDER ABUSE REGISTRY**

This proposed bill establishes an elder abuse registry that contains information on health care providers who have been convicted of abuse of an elderly person.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) currently administers the Protective Services for the Elderly program for the state. This program is designed to safeguard adults 60 years and older from physical, mental and emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment and/or financial abuse and exploitation. DSS social workers devise a plan of care aimed at assuring an elder's safety while preserving the person's right of self-determination.

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and is supportive of any initiative that protects the health, safety and welfare of older adults. However, the bill, as proposed, is unclear. The Department is unsure what agency would be expected to operate and maintain this registry. In addition, expectations around public access of such registry are also unclear.

Managing this registry would require significant staff time and resources. In this difficult fiscal climate, the Department does not have additional staff resources to put toward the creation and maintenance of this registry. For these reasons, the Department is unable to support this bill.