



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

TO: Senator Beth Bye
Senator Terry Gerratana
Representative Toni Walker
Representative Susan Johnson
Members of the Appropriations and Public Health Committees

FROM: Commissioner Patricia Rehmer, DMHAS

DATE: December 22, 2014

SUBJECT: Written Testimony Supporting the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board's
2014 Disbursement Recommendations

Sen. Bye, Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Public Health Committees. DMHAS is submitting written testimony this afternoon in support of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board's 2014 disbursement recommendations.

DMHAS supports the new disbursements which will increase community interventions, run a statewide media campaign, support programs that provide tobacco cessation services to youth, individuals with serious mental illness, patients with chronic illnesses caused by smoking, and individuals under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system and provide a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the above proposed programs and services. We believe that these initiatives are all important pieces of a tobacco prevention framework and we would appreciate your support for these efforts.

Last year, DMHAS, was given and \$287,770 for enhanced tobacco enforcement efforts. Thus far, a total of **560 undercover compliance inspections** have been completed in Hartford, Bridgeport and Stamford. Of those 560 compliance inspections, **105 retailers** sold a tobacco product to a minor volunteering with the police. The Urban Tobacco Inspection Pilot retailer violation rate is currently running at **20%**. The resulting 105 non-compliant inspections tabulate into approximately **\$21,000.00 dollars** in first time infractions. Collected fines go to the General Fund. In addition, each retailer that received a compliance inspection also received a compliance inspection has been completed. New Haven is waiting for an

additional approval from the merchant education and awareness package. The education package is issued to the retailer after the first Board of Alderman before commencing with compliance inspections. It is expected New Haven will start inspections next month, January of 2015.

The new dollars that were given to DMHAS were critical to our ongoing enforcement efforts and we appreciate your willingness to follow the direction of the Board in these matters.