

March 12, 2007

Ms. Jeanie Phillips  
Human Services Committee  
State Legislature

RE: House Bill 1396

Dear Ms. Phillips,

I'm writing in support of House Bill 1396 which would allow the Office of Policy and Management to exempt specific DMHAS funded program from a competitive bidding process.

The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital has served the DMHAS target population for over thirty years. Our clinical staff has developed long standing therapeutic relationships with this extremely fragile population of consumers.

In addition, our collaboration with DMHAS has resulted in a continual process of program redesign, quality improvements and financial efficiency.

A competitive bidding process would encourage the delivery of services by providers lacking a local connection and commitment to Northwest CT, dismantle a continuum of services that required years to develop, and require consumers to develop new therapeutic relationships thus jeopardizing their recovery.

We believe it is in the best interest of behavioral health consumers to enact House Bill 1396.

Sincerely,

Alan Marinaccio, LCSW  
Administrative Director  
Behavioral Health

Cc: Alyssa Goduti