



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
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AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER SPECIFIC AND  
TRAUMA-INFORMED STATE SERVICES

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Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on **HB 6672 AAC Gender Specific and Trauma-Informed State Services**.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has a number of concerns with this bill as currently drafted. First, Section 1 appears to require that *all* behavioral health or substance abuse services provided by the state, or by a public or private health care provider under contract with the state, be gender specific and trauma-informed. While there are clearly programs that ought to be gender specific and trauma-informed based on the unique needs of the population being served, it may be inappropriate and overly restrictive to require this for all behavioral health and substance abuse programs.

Secondly, Section 2 requires OPM to establish a competitive grant program to identify and encourage best practices in the delivery of gender specific and trauma-informed services by the state or under contract with the state and further provides that any service provider in the state may apply for such grant. Although OPM certainly supports the global intent of ensuring that programs provided or funded by the state are consistent with best practices, the funding for this grant program is not in the budget. In addition, it's important to note that state agencies involved in providing and/or contracting for behavioral health and substance abuse services are already making efforts to ensure that best practices are incorporated into these services. These efforts can and will continue in the absence of a legislative mandate.

I hope this information is helpful. As always, OPM would be happy to work with the committee in addressing the issues identified above, and I thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.