



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2008**

**S.B. NO. 564 AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL
HEALTH NEEDS.**

The Department of Children and Families is opposed to S.B. No. 564 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

The Department of Children and Families concurs with the testimony of the Department of Social Services on this bill. DCF, in its role as the lead children's mental health agency in Connecticut and as joint administrator of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership, wishes to underscore the fact that there are processes and protocols currently in place designed to identify and address service needs. Working with DSS, and within the parameters set forth in the Governor's budget, significant enhancements to Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS) and Children's Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services are currently underway. An additional Crisis Stabilization Unit for those youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis, but not in need of inpatient care, is also proposed within our existing budget.

As pointed out in the DSS testimony, the rate structure proposed in this bill does not take into account whether such rates would be economic or efficient, which is not consistent with federal Medicaid law.

The Department of Children and Families believes that substantive progress can be made to expand behavioral health services to children and adolescents within existing statutory guidelines and within the proposed budget.