Community Providers Association
Caring for Connecticut.

February 29, 2008

To: Public Health Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

Re: CCPA Testimony – February 29 2008 Public Hearing

S.B. 40 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing

S.B. 422 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness

Please accept these comments for the record.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant needs including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Our members provide supportive housing services in locales throughout the state.

We urge you to keep the very positive momentum going by supporting the full complement of 650 supportive housing units. In addition, we encourage you to support the development of alternative incarceration supportive housing options for those with mental health and substance use disorders.

Community provider agencies with proven track-records in the provision of supportive housing are ready and able to expand their programs if only the funding were available.

One of the most basic things needed by all is a home. Supportive housing makes a tremendous difference in the lives of hundreds of families across Connecticut every year. It is a proven solution for people with serious mental illness, chemical dependency or chronic health challenges to be able to sustain a meaningful and productive life in their communities.

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Supportive housing is an effective solution because it addresses basic needs while offering an alternative to more expensive and restrictive institutional setting.

Supportive housing pairs affordable and secure housing with individualized support services. The intervention of case managers, employments specialists and other community providers is all carefully tailored to provide necessary support.

We urge your support to expand supportive housing opportunities in Connecticut.