



University of Connecticut Health Center

Correctional Managed Health Care

TESTIMONY

Judiciary Committee

March 24, 2009

SB No. 639 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL DIRECTORS OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

Distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Robert L. Trestman, Executive Director, Correctional Managed Health Care (CMHC) at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding SB 639, AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL DIRECTORS OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. CMHC, along with the Department of Correction, **supports** the bill before you.

The Connecticut Department of Correction, in partnership with the University of Connecticut Health Center, is committed to providing reliable access to good health care, cost-effective services, efficient delivery and positive medical outcomes to inmates. CMHC is the largest staff model health maintenance organization in the state.

Compassionate medical, mental and dental care coupled with clinically appropriate, time efficient and resource sensitive utilization of services promotes a safe, secure and healthy environment that supports opportunities for a successful re-integration into the community. Services are provided at 18 DOC facilities statewide, at 38 DOC-contracted halfway houses and at John Dempsey Hospital. Health care includes medical, mental health, pharmacy, and dental services. As of June, 2008, services were provided by 780 full-time equivalent staff to an average of 19,382 incarcerated inmates and 1,006 inmates residing in halfway houses.

We are fully supportive of SB 639 and believe we can meet its requirements. In fact, the medical director of the Department of Correction and eight of the twenty physicians at CMHC have already received eight hours of federally approved opiate and detoxification training. We believe we can arrange for the remaining twelve CMHC physicians to be trained by April 2010.

We would respectfully request that language on lines 22-23 be amended to read as follows: "by, or under contract with, the Department of Correction [to provide] who provides detoxification or substance abuse treatment services to inmates has professional"

Thank you for your attention.

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