



CONNECTICUT COUNSELING  
ASSOCIATION  
*A Branch of the American Counseling Association*

March 12, 2010

Re: Section 52 of SB 428, AAC Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes

Dear Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Michael Gilles, I am the Acting President of the Connecticut Counseling Association and a professor of Counselor Education at Western Connecticut State University. I am here to testify in support of Section 52 of Senate Bill 428, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes.

The Connecticut Counseling Association (CCA), chartered over 83 years ago, represents Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's). A Professional Counselor has received a master's degree or higher from a program meeting the standards outlined by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

LPC's have been licensed in Connecticut since 1997 and have been allowed to receive reimbursement from third party payors for services rendered since 2000. Currently, Connecticut has over 1,400 Professional Counselors.

Section 52 will clarify the current professional statute for counselors by adding the word "diagnosis".

This technical revision will bring the statute in compliance with the Mental Health Parity law (Sec. 38a-514), entitled "Mandatory Coverage for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental or Nervous Conditions", which includes the word "diagnose" in the description of the professions allowed to be reimbursed by a third party payor for services rendered.

Section 52 would also clarify the statute which implies diagnosis through the inclusion of the current word "treatment" in the definition of a Licensed Professional Counselor. Diagnosis is an essential part of the process of clinical assessment, treatment planning and counseling.

Finally, Section 52 will align Connecticut law with 37 other states that include the work "diagnose" or "diagnosis" in outlining the scope of practice of the profession in their respective professional statutes.

Licensed Professional Counselors hope that you will support this technical clarification supported by the Department of Public Health and the Connecticut Counseling Association.  
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Gilles, Ed. D., NCC, LPC  
Connecticut Counseling Association Acting President