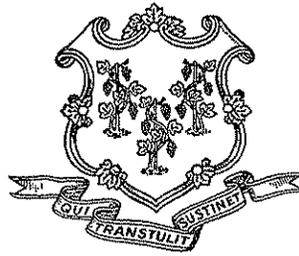


SENATOR JOSEPH J. CRISCO, JR.
Seventeenth District

CHIEF DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
FEDERAL RELATIONS LIAISON



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Insurance & Real Estate Committee

Ranking Member
Internship Committee

Vice Chair
Banks Committee
Commerce Committee

Member
Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee
Legislative Management Committee

TO: Senator Toni N. Harp, Co-Chairman, Representative Toni E. Walker, Co-Chairman
and Members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Senator Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.

RE: Traumatic Brain Injury Care

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF

Senator Joe Crisco

Submitted To The
Appropriations Committee
Agency Budget Hearings
Department of Social Services
March 4, 2011

I am encouraging the Appropriations Committee to adopt a small line-item to fund a pilot program to adopt evidence-based treatment for persons suffering traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Recognizing the severe fiscal challenges that we face this year, we would not normally make such a request. However, in examining the testimony of others you will see that a small investment in a pilot program could save Connecticut many millions of dollars over the next decade and reduce the amounts that we spend on such tragic cases.

There is ample evidence now in the medical literature that shows that the implementation of evidence based guidelines improves patient outcomes – reducing mortality by 50% and improving functional outcome by 50% - while reducing acute care costs by 20%.

The cost of caring for all TBI patients in Connecticut, in the acute and long term phases is estimated to be slightly more than \$650 million dollars. Conservative savings estimates indicate that if evidence based medicine were applied statewide to the treatment of TBI patients, cost savings in just the Medicaid population of patients could exceed \$16 million dollars annually. This is because traumatic brain injured patients who have a poor medical outcome often end up resident in long term care facilities in a comatose condition.

I respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of this very important proposal, and will be meeting with you and the Committee members to discuss this further.