



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA M. GENTILE
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CHAIRMAN
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 4, 2011

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I would like to urge 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.

Recognizing the severe fiscal challenges that we face this year, it can be tempting to look for short-term solutions to our deficit. However, modest investments now can amount to significant savings in the near future. 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.

Not only will a pilot program save us money, it will allow us to better serve the citizens of Connecticut that deal with these often debilitating injuries on a daily basis. There is ample evidence in the medical literature that shows that the implementation of evidence-based guidelines improves patient outcomes and can reduce mortality by 50% and improve functional outcome by 50%, all 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 solely 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 residing in long term care facilities in a comatose condition.

I strongly encourage your favorable consideration of this very important proposal .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Gentile".

Linda M. Gentile

State Representative, 104 District