

State Senator Gayle Slossberg, Assistant Majority Leader
State Representative Russ Morin

This letter is in reference to the proposed **Bill No. 807: An Act Concerning Established Local Non-Profit Providers and State Contracts**. As President / CEO of StayWell Health Care, Inc., I am writing in support of this bill which will recognize established local not-for-profit providers' knowledge of their service area in the program grant application process introduced by: Sen. Joan V. Hartley, 15th District.

StayWell is a Federally Qualified Health Center which is celebrating its 39th year serving the Waterbury community. Our health center receives tremendous support from the community as the key safety net provider bringing primary medical, dental and mental health services to the residents of our community.

The City of Waterbury is fortunate to have a cohesive network of non-profit agencies that work effectively as partners to do our best to meet the needs of the Greater Waterbury Community. StayWell has collaborative relationships with other local health care providers as well as various community partners. This support includes Mayor Michael Jarjura, the City of Waterbury Department of Health, Waterbury Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, the Waterbury Board of Education, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Connecticut Community Foundation, the local United Way, the Waterbury Ryan White Consortium, Wellpath, Inc., Family Services of Greater Waterbury, the Morris Foundation, Planned Parenthood, the Waterbury Development Corporation, and the Connecticut Health Foundation.

When an opportunity arises to provide new or additional services in a community, giving preference to the existing organizations builds on that organization's history, existing efficiencies, and administrative structure.

Adding a new player to the community will prove to be challenging. It will not only add to the existing stretched safety net and administrative expense, it will also introduce another agency that will be looking for local financial support in an already tight economy.

Respectfully submitted,

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