



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 22, 2011

Benjamin Barnes

Secretary

Office of Policy and Management

Testimony Regarding Raised Bill No. 6612

AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 6612, An Act Concerning Recommendations from the Commission on Non Profit Health and Human Services Relating to the Purchase of Service Contracts. While fully supportive of and committed to the type of reforms reflected in this bill, we do want to raise some issues for your consideration as you review this bill. This first relates to mandating in statute what we already have the authority to implement, and the need to retain adequate flexibility to determine the best approach to these problems. In addition, we do have significant concerns that the bill would impose some costs on the State at a time of unprecedented budgetary challenges.

As you know, Governor Malloy has made it a priority for his administration to work in partnership with the State's non-profit health and human services providers to develop a health and human service delivery system that maximizes client outcomes, cost-effectiveness, accountability and sustainability, as well that reflects the use of best practices from within the state and across the country with respect to such systems. This commitment is best reflected in the appointment of Deb Heinrich to cabinet level position to provide the leadership and focus needed to work through the numerous and complex issues that need to be addressed for true reform to occur.

Deb and my office are already deep into the work of implementing a number of recommendations made by the Commission on Non-Profit Health and Human Services, including payment reforms, streamlining contracting processes and other areas. For most of these reforms, including those listed in the Raised Bill 6612,

additional statutory changes are not needed for the administration, working with providers, to move forward with implementation.

We suggest that this bill could be an excellent vehicle to affect reforms that require legislative changes. In other words, if there are laws that are an impediment to the reforms recommended by the Commission on Non Profit Health and Human Services Relating to the Purchase of Service Contracts, then it would be beneficial to address them in this bill. We would be eager to work with you in identifying those existing provisions in statutes, including certain reporting requirements and others, which are, in fact, impediments to improving these systems.

There is no doubt that the State and its private providers have much work do in terms of improving our systems. In this regard, Governor Malloy's intention is to move forward with the type of public-partnership reflected in the work of the Commission on Non-Profit Health and Human Services to undertake the hard work of reforming systems that have been years and, in fact, decades in the making.

Finally, I want to emphasize my concern that a number of the provisions in the bill would impose unknown costs on State agencies, including those associated with establishing a state-wide data warehouse. As you know, additional costs are extremely problematic at a time when State agencies are being required to reduce their budgets.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Raised Bill 6612, and we look forward to working with you in this regard.