



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

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PATRICIA A. REHMER, MSN
COMMISSIONER

Testimony by Patricia Rehmer, MSN, Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Public Health Committee
February 9, 2011

Good morning Sen. Stillman, Rep. Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am Commissioner Patricia Rehmer of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and I am here this morning to speak in favor of **SB 852 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing**. I want to thank the Committee for your assistance in raising this bill.

SB 852 An Act Concerning Supportive Housing would make changes to the DMHAS Supportive Housing statutes so that they would conform to existing practices. We are proud to say that we currently have 1280 units of permanent supportive housing statewide with another 110 in the development stages. This bill would add the Department of Corrections and the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to the Interagency Workgroup, it would eliminate confusing references to the NEXT STEPS and PILOT Initiatives, and it would delineate the development components from the scattered site components of the supportive housing model. The supportive housing initiatives in CT have been a critical component of our recovery efforts and we appreciate the support this legislature has given this program throughout the years. We would like to suggest one simple change in the legislation before you. The Interagency Group would appreciate it if you could add the word “permanent” before the words “supportive housing initiatives” throughout the statute. Those words were used in the previous statute and we inadvertently left it out in the draft we sent to the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have at this time.