



March 12, 2012

To: Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

From: Hillary Teed, Public Policy Specialist

Re: **S.B. No. 25 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

My name is Hillary Teed and I am a Public Policy Specialist at Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA). We appreciate Governor Malloy's commitment to support the "safety net" by including a Cost of Living Adjustment for private providers and for including bonding for community-based services in his FY13 budget adjustments. **I am speaking in support of section (9) (e), in which the Governor's recommends the allocation of bond funds for grants-in-aid to private nonprofit mental health clinics for children.**

CCPA represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Community providers deliver quality health and human services to 500,000 of Connecticut's residents each year. We are the safety net.



The Governor's original biennial budget recommended bonding authorizations for community providers funded by DMHAS, DDS, DSS and DCF but did not include bond funds for psychiatric clinics for children, the "child guidance clinics" funded in part by DCF.

S.B. 25 Sec. 9(4)(e) adds up to \$1 M in funding for these outpatient clinics for "fire, safety and environmental improvements, including expansion." Much like residential settings, psychiatric

CCPA

CCPA Testimony – March 12, 2012 – page 2

S.B. No. 25 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PURPOSES.

clinics must address infrastructure needs if they are to continue to be able to serve children and families in community-based settings.

With minimal reserves, they do not have a ready source of funds to meet their very basic infrastructure needs such as roof and gutter repair or replacement, furnace replacement, sidewalk renovation to meet safety standards and the many types of maintenance that any business requires. They can't increase their rates. They can't add a surcharge to their pricing. These organizations rely heavily on state support as safety net providers.

Tropical Storm Irene and the October Nor'easter bear out the need for the bonding allocation. Just like homeowners and businesses throughout the state, community providers needed to clear their roofs, secure generators to provide services in safe settings and handle emergency situations such as leaking ceilings and flooded basements. This bonding will do much to remedy the health and safety and environmental needs going forward.

Thank you for your consideration in approving a bond package that supports funding for grants-in-aid to private nonprofit mental health clinics for children.

We have also submitted testimony in support of S.B. 356 which would expand the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) to organizations taxed under the provisions of chapter 213a, limited liability companies. Thank you for your consideration.