



February 13, 2012

FTR

Honorable Senator Joseph J. Crisco  
Honorable Representative Robert W. Megna  
Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Connecticut's State Health Insurance Exchange Board**

Dear Senator Crisco and Representative Megna:

I am writing to offer my testimony in support of Raised H.B. Bill 5013 increasing the number and roles of board members for the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange. I am the Executive Director of the North Central Regional Mental Health Board whose purpose is to evaluate state funded services offered to individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. I am also an active member of the Keep the Promise Steering Committee.

We applaud the efforts made thus far in Connecticut to carry forth the tenants of the Affordable Care Act and to ensure that the voice of consumers are heard and respected. In that vein, we respectfully request that the current Health Exchange legislation be amended to add additional members to the Board representing consumers who would be using the insurance products available through the Exchange. We would also request that the Healthcare Advocate be made a voting member.

In on our experience as monitors and advocates for high quality mental health services in Connecticut, we have seen first-hand the impact that strong consumer representation and broad stakeholder representation can have for ensuring that services are affordable and accessible for all people, including those with disabilities and chronic diseases, their families and caregivers. We also believe that the exchange board must include people who have direct experience

assisting consumers to navigate obstacles to purchasing insurance so that their experience can inform the decisions the board makes.

We continue to believe that those with a financial interest in the Exchange should be barred from serving on the Board.

We believe that a Consumer Advisory Board should be established with opportunity for notice and comment to the Board. We support the Board conducting all of its activities in an open and transparent manner. The presence of consumers and small businesses, the exclusion of those with a financial interest, and the voting membership of Connecticut's Health Care Advocate will promote the balance of cost and quality, patient protection and accountability are achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia DuFore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcia DuFore  
Executive Director

Cc: Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman  
Special Advisor Jeannette DeJesus  
Healthcare Advocate Victoria Veltri