

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 5, 2013

Raised S.B. No. 1026 – An act concerning an adequate provider network to ensure positive health outcomes for low income residents.

TO: Members of the Human Services Committee

I am offering testimony **IN SUPPORT OF** Raised SB No. 1026. Access to quality health care is a critical issue for all state residents. With expansion of Medicaid in the state, planning for suitable access is a pressing issue requiring accurate and detailed information about provider availability in all parts of the state – urban, rural and suburban. I am particularly interested in ensuring that we have a better understanding of the availability of psychiatric and mental health resources, since my family is affected by a member with a mental illness who has at times had difficulties with access to care. I also serve as a member of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and co-chair the council's committee on Quality, Access and Policy for the adult programs. The information from the proposed commission would certainly help us better understand issues of access in the state and enable us to make better policy recommendations for the behavioral health system. I urge the General Assembly to pass this measure.

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