

Public Health Committee
Bill 1137 AN Act Concerning School-Bases Health Centers
March 20th, 2013
Kristen Tierney

I'm a lifelong caregiver of a non-custodial family member who is diagnosed with a mental illness. I represent caregivers through my business Turtles & Lemonade.

I'm here today to speak in support of S.B. Bill 1137 with a modification to its language.

Please adopt the federal language for "school-based health center" and include mental & behavioral health services to its language.

1 in 5 children have a diagnosable mental illness, 70-80% of those children receive services only in school. This is an essential component to these very successful in School Health Centers. I urge you to change the language and support the mental health of our children.

As with cancer, early detection and managed care work. It is the most cost effective model for insurance companies, patients and society.

When you know better, we need to do better.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony and addressing this very important issue.