



THE CONNECTICUT PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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MARCH 7, 2013

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Dear Members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee:

My name is Traci Cipriano, and I am writing as Director of Professional Affairs for the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA), and as a licensed clinical psychologist, **in support of House Bill No. 6517**, which recommends that the Connecticut Insurance Department be required to issue a report to the Legislature on September 1, 2013, demonstrating how the Department is ensuring compliance with federal and state parity laws.

CPA believes this is an important first step in the process of monitoring and enforcing true mental health parity in Connecticut. In 2013, we have already seen the implementation of changes in Medicare requirements (which place additional assessment and reporting requirements on providers, and will influence reimbursement rates) as well as changes in treatment procedure codes (used to classify the treatment provided to a patient, and ultimately, Medicare and private insurer reimbursement rates). In addition, new psychiatric diagnostic categories (used to diagnose patients, and ultimately, to determine medical necessity in terms of insurance coverage) will be going into effect in May of this year. Moreover, as a result of the enactment of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), the overall model for healthcare delivery is undergoing great change in all states, including Connecticut. As we progress through this transition period, detailed monitoring and enforcement of parity become increasingly important.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Traci Cipriano, PhD
Traci Cipriano, JD, PhD
Director of Professional Affairs