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 Middletown, CT 06457
 860.347.6971

Locations:

HB - 5740

CHC of Bristol

395 North Main Street
 Bristol, CT 06010
 860.585.5000

CHC of Clinton

114 East Main Street
 Clinton, CT 06413
 860.664.0787

CHC of Danbury

8 Delay Street
 Danbury, CT 06810
 203.797.8330

CHC of Enfield

5 North Main Street
 Enfield, CT 06082
 860.253.9024

CHC of Groton

481 Gold Star Highway
 Groton, CT 06340
 860.446.8858

CHC of Meriden

134 State Street
 Meriden, CT 06450
 203.237.2229

CHC of Middletown

675 Main Street
 Middletown, CT 06457
 860.347.6971

CHC of New Britain

85 Lafayette Street
 New Britain, CT 06051
 860.224.3642

CHC of New London

One Shaw's Cove
 New London, CT 06320
 860.447.8304

CHC of Old Saybrook

263 Main Street
 Old Saybrook, CT 06475
 860.388.4433

CHC of Waterbury

51 North Elm Street
 Waterbury, CT 06702
 203.574.4000

Day Street CHC

49 Day Street
 Norwalk, CT 06854
 203.854.9292

Franklin Street CHC

141 Franklin Street
 Stamford, CT 06901
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Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. I am Jane Hylan, Director of School Based Health Services for the Community Health Center, Inc. I am here today to show support for the Proposed Bill no. 5740. At CHC, we served close to 10,000 student/patients in our school based health programs last school year. 1,500 of them were treated by one of our school based behavioral health clinicians – each a specialist in children and adolescent behavioral health. At CHC we provide accessible models of quality health care to students in schools based on the needs and available accommodations of that particular school and community. Bill 5740 supports the inclusion of school based behavioral health service as a component of a school based health center or as a stand alone service. At CHC, we are in over 170 schools and community locations, some are comprehensive and others are a stand alone models – Each model provides needed, accessible, affordable and very valued care to students who otherwise may go without. Bill 5740 should include automatic enrollment into school based health services with a provision for “opt out” by parents or guardians. This would further reduce barriers to needed care and improve notification of parents about the availability of school based services at their child’s school. Lastly, this bill introduces the need for additional psychiatric follow up for so many children in treatment. A shortage of Child Psychiatric Providers means high risk children and adolescents remain on wait lists for months at a time. Waiting can lead to avoidable crisis situations for these children and their families. Psychiatric services, delivered via telemedicine, have been successful in other areas of the country, have prevented behavioral crisis, costly emergency room care and gotten so many student/patients the follow up care they so desperately need. Psychiatric services delivered via telemedicine should also be part of this bill.

I would like to share a student/patient’s story from one of our school based behavioral health programs:



Hi my name is Alice (not my real name). I am in the 8th grade and 13 years old and I go to John F. Kennedy Middle School in Enfield Connecticut. I have always grown up in Enfield. My family cannot afford much and its been hard with my dad gone. My mom has 5 kids, 2 are really my aunt's, but she passed away from cancer a long time ago. Their dad is M.I.A too. When I was 7 I began having issues at school. I would be mean and I was angry all the time. I didn't really get why. My school said I should go to therapy, but we don't have a car so I couldn't go. Last year I started 7th grade and I began to cut myself. It got worse when my sister's friend killed herself. We had a lot of suicide last year in my town and I knew like three of them. I started to feel suicidal myself. That was when my guidance counselor told me about the School Based Health Services at my school. I could get therapy in school and not worry about my mom not being able to afford it and not being able to get me there. I came once a week, sometimes twice when I was having a really bad week, and my therapist and I worked on helping me figure out why I am so angry and depressed and how to move on and cope differently. My therapist helped me find different ways to express myself and helped me move on from traumas that were holding me back.. Its been a long road. I went to the hospital 4 times for suicidal thoughts. I had one attempt. My School Based therapist was always there for me. I haven't cut myself since March 1st 2012. My last hospital stay was in February 2012. Now its March 2013, my physical scars have faded and my emotional ones are beginning to finally heal. I want to live and I don't want to hurt myself. I am actually excited about my future and I don't know where I would be without my school based therapist. Thanks.