



CT Association for Addiction Professionals

Raised Bill No. 1065 LCO No. 4107

March 2013

My name is Doreen Krupp and I am the Immediate Past President for the CT Association for Addiction Professionals, (CAAP). My credentials include a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology, Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) in private practice.

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Public Health Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bill No 1065.

I respectfully request that the Public Health Committee add a critical educational requirement that new applicants have a Masters degree in the behavioral health sciences.

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC's) play a vital role in the new integrative model of healthcare that includes an evidence-based specialized skill set involving assessing/diagnosing and treatment of substance abusing individuals. Another critical component of delivering quality care to individuals involves assuring individuals receive quality continuum of care between primary care health providers and behavioral health treatment professionals. The elimination of the master's educational requirements and the 240 hours of critical alcohol & drug abuse knowledge reduces the skill set competencies necessary to practice of addiction treatment in the manner in which all CT: pre-adolescents, adolescents, older adults and ex-offenders, deserve in CT.

Currently, the LCSW, LMFT, and LPC professions' credentials meet behavioral health standards accepted by private and public insurance carriers for reimbursement of services rendered. As CT prepares for the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act, and if the licensure revisions are not corrected, the vital services of CT addiction professionals may not gain provider status as the current licensure does not meet and comply with professional standards required by public and private insurers. It is not at all palatable to consider my education journey, along with my 26 years of experience in the addictions field, cherished career path and livelihood could have no professional merit .

Excluding almost 700 Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors (LADC's) in CT from the insurance exchanges or other parts of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act will critically impact their employability as well as place their job stability at risk. CT, along with its residents, will loose an essential provider in healthcare for its insurance exchanges.

Again, as one of many CT Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors, I respectfully request that our General Assembly revisit the LADC Licensure requirements revised in 2012. This will assure that our residents are receiving care from the best trained addiction professional now, and going forward into the future. We have an obligation to meet the complex and complicated care and enormous changes we will inevitably face with this specific population and healthcare system in a manner that has a gold standard.

I'd like to thank you for your time and I hope you can support our efforts to strengthening the standards for licensed addiction professionals in CT.

Doreen M. Krupp