



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES*  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN  
Commissioner

**Memorandum:**

TO: Senator Eric Coleman  
Representative Gerald Fox  
Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Commissioner Patricia Rehmer, DMHAS

DATE: March 3, 2014

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 361

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee: thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 261 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INHERITANCE RIGHTS OF A BENEFICIARY OR SURVIVOR WHO IS FOUND NOT GUILTY OF MURDER OR MANSLAUGHTER OF THE DECEASED BY REASON OF MENTAL DISEASE OR DEFECT.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has some concerns with the bill as written. When a parent is killed by an adult child with serious mental illness, and the parent's actions and intent have for years been to support the child who is ill and try to do the best that the parent can for that child, under such circumstances, this bill would preempt the clear wishes of the parent that the adult child be supported by whatever means the parent had available. We have been working closely with the Office of the Victim's Advocate to address this issue and we ask that you consider amending the bill in such a way as to make allowances for family circumstances such as these. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.