



CONNECTICUT  
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

February 18, 2014

**S.B. No. 56 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL  
IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE**

Dear Co-Chairs Osten and Tercyak, and Members of the Labor and Public Employees  
Committee:

My name is Traci Cipriano, and I am writing as Director of Professional Affairs for the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA), **in support of S.B. No 56**. Specifically, this bill expands workers' compensation coverage to employees who have been evaluated and diagnosed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist, related to witnessing a horrific event or its aftermath, when such event includes the intentional death or maiming of one or more persons by another, "and was causally connected with the employee's employment."

Licensed psychologists are extensively trained in diagnostic evaluation and assessment, including the use of empirically validated assessment instruments.

It is difficult to predict what unexpected events might lead to disability, but it is important to have a means for addressing disability issues which may arise from unforeseen catastrophic events.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Traci Cipriano, PhD*

Traci Cipriano, JD, PhD  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Director of Professional Affairs