



Catholic Charities

Archdiocese of Hartford

March 18, 2014

**TESTIMONY FOR H.B. 417-
An Act Concerning the Provision of Psychiatric and Substance Use Treatment**

Submitted By: Lois Nesci, CEO
Catholic Charities – Archdiocese of Hartford

Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford supports House Bill 417: An Act concerning the Provision of Psychiatric and Substance Use Treatment.

Catholic Charities operates eleven (11) clinic sites licensed to provide behavioral health, substance abuse and psychiatric services to adults and children. Practitioners include master level licensed mental health clinicians and substance abuse clinicians as well as APRNs and Board certified psychiatrists.

This bill is a beginning step to allow practitioners to provide services to individuals experiencing a crisis or immediate need and who are unable to be seen in the clinic or office location for a variety of reasons. This may include a (non-clinical) program site operated by Catholic Charities, in the school, hospital, or other acceptable location.

We understand this is the first step with several areas that require additional planning and design. We would recommend that both licensing and reimbursement processes be addressed so that these become seamless as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration in regards to this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Nesci, Chief Executive Officer