Reference S.B. #408
To Whom It May Concern:

The specific issue that we at Shoreline Wellness Center, LLC in West Haven are concerned about is that currently independent practitioners (Psychologists (PhD, PsyD), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), License Professional Counselors (LPC), or Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors(LADC), cannot receive reimbursement for Husky C or D clients over age 21. In other words, the only practitioners that are being reimbursed for HUSKY C or D in CT are clinicians which work in clinics. Our agency tried to become a clinic, but it is very hard to become a clinic and after spending thousands of dollars, we were denied "clinic status" by the City of West Haven planning and zoning and advised by our legal council that an appeal would cost an exorbitant amount of money and we would lose. In the mean time, the mental health clinics that do exist in CT have long waiting lists sometimes the wait is as long as 5-6 months.

This law is doing harm to the people of Connecticut. People suffering from mental illness, that need treatment and in some cases medication, are sometimes forced to wait weeks or months for treatments which can sometimes put them and others in danger or unnecessarily prolong their suffering. If the above mentioned practitioners were reimbursed for Husky C and Husky D CT Medicaid, the wait time for treatment would be greatly reduced or eliminated. The law should be changed to improve the health and well being of every person in Connecticut. I just called a local West Haven Clinic and their current wait time for new patients is two weeks which is a very long time for someone suffering from mental illness.

We are hoping to change the law so that ALL the above mentioned professionals working in non-clinic settings will be allowed to be reimbursed by Husky C and Husky D CT Medicaid.

The poverty level income qualification has recently been raised which will result in more people in CT eligible for CT Medicaid HUSKY C and D. This will most likely result in more demand on the existing CT clinics and longer wait times for people suffering from mental illness. The solution is simple. Change the law and grant ALL private practice clinicians reimbursement for CT Medicaid Husky C and D. Doing this will improve the health and well being of the people of Connecticut and ultimately save lives."

Sincerely,
Clarice Grens, APRN