

Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 408 AAC Mental Health Options for Adult Medicaid Recipients

I urge you to support SB 408 to allow licensed clinical social workers to provide services for Husky C and D recipients. My name is Pamela McGuire and I am a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice located at 660 Prospect Avenue in Hartford, CT. In addition to my work in private practice, I serve as a Field Faculty Adviser for the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and I provide treatment to nursing home residents through a contracted position.

In my private practice, I currently serve individuals and families with private and public health insurance including Medicare, Husky A and B, Anthem, United Behavioral Health, Tri Care, Oxford, Magellan, Cigna, Connecticare, and Multi Plan. I am pleased to panel with various insurance companies because this allows me to serve the greatest variety of people regardless of income. It should be noted that accessibility is a key ideal in the role of social work education and service. It is for this reason that I chose to rent space in Hartford and accept many insurances. I am passionate about my work and education, and I believe that all people, regardless of income, should have access to quality mental health care and provider options. It should be noted that I often receive inquiries for services from Husky C and D recipients, and I am forced to deny services under the current provisions. I provide referrals to clinics that are often further away and have significant wait times for intake appointments.

With Obama Care now in place, many more adults are joining Medicaid and need to have access to mental health care. Two - thirds to three - quarters of mental health services in CT are provided by clinical social workers. With this in mind, I encourage deep consideration of the licensed social work community's emphatic request to serve a growing population of Medicaid recipients deserving of quality care and convenient and accessible care options.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela McGuire, LCSW

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