



February 19, 2015

**SB 841: AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN**

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and Members of the Committee on Children:

As Director of Professional Affairs for the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA), I am writing to encourage your **support of SB 841: AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN'S MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN.**

Importantly, SB 841 provides for the establishment of an advisory board to oversee the implementation of the comprehensive children's mental, emotional and behavioral health plan, and sets forth parameters for a report detailing such plan, as well as professional development training for providers, intervention programs and public education. This is a critical step in addressing the current fragmented state of mental health services for children in Connecticut. As I mentioned recently in previous testimony, children are the future of Connecticut and the more we can meet their needs at an earlier age, the more likely they will become well-adjusted, productive members of society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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