

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Good Morning, this written testimony is on behalf of the Yale University School of Public Health.

Thank you to Chairman Cassano, Chairman Julita and fellow members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee for providing us the opportunity to communicate our support of Governor's Bill No. 949

First, as a School of Public Health, we believe that a critical part of our mission is improving health and the quality and efficiency of health care nationally, as well as in our local communities. We remain committed to working with state agencies, including the state Medicaid agency, to better understand how Connecticut can improve the health of Connecticut residents while increasing the impact of the dollars we spend on health care.

We believe Governor's Bill No. 949 is an important step helping provide a much necessary context to rising local health care spending. Considerable research has found that social, behavioral and environmental factors are primary predictors of health outcomes for many common conditions. Challenges in housing, energy, food security, and employment affect many of our low-income residents and are often manifest in unnecessary, and largely preventable health care costs. Moreover, better health care and diagnosis of several conditions, including behavioral health conditions, could have profound effects; including lower incidence of crime and recidivism, better performance in schools, and the reduced need for future social support resources. The health of individuals is undeniably linked to the stability of their social context, however, the

intersection of health and other social supports have not been given adequate attention in the design and delivery of our state programs.

This is true, in part, because agencies and agency data have worked in parallel rather than in tandem. Governor's Bill No. 949 provides a single point of contact for disparate agencies, opening the door to a more comprehensive investigation of how we can structure programs in a way that improves lives and reduces unnecessary costs. This type of forward thinking could place Connecticut at the vanguard of social service program design.

The Yale School of Public Health is part of a broader community of organizations in Connecticut that are supportive of and equipped to contribute to this public policy challenge. In particular, we have experts in health policy and the social sciences who are eager to better understand the effects of social service design on health care delivery and outcomes. Additionally, we have considerable experience handling confidential information and significant security protocols to ensure the safe keeping of highly sensitive personal data. Finally, we have well-established connections with community and state agencies that will facilitate us identifying challenges of mutual interest and benefit to the citizens of the state of Connecticut.

In closing, the Yale School of Public Health is committed to improving the health and the efficiency of health care services provided in Connecticut and we believe Governor's Bill No. 949 is in accord with that mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Cleary". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Paul D. Cleary