



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony

In Support Of H.B. 5836 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Medical Evaluations Or Appointments Ordered By A Court For An Insured And Any Subsequent Treatment Required Insurance and Real Estate Committee February 17, 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Crisco and Representative Megna, Vice Chairs Senator Hartley and Representative Zoni,, Ranking members Senator Kelly and Representative Sampson, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

I am submitting my testimony in full support of House Bill 5836 , AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDICAL EVALUATIONS OR APPOINTMENTS ORDERED BY A COURT FOR AN INSURED AND ANY SUBSEQUENT TREATMENT REQUIRED.

The stress of being caught up in the judicial process is something most of us try to avoid. The stress can be debilitating in some instances, especially in contested divorces and custody cases. In some cases, defendants or plaintiffs are required to see a therapist for evaluation and/or treatment by order of the court. Unfortunately, these visits can be costly, especially at a time when people are swamped with legal fees.

House Bill 5836 is an attempt to ensure that for those individuals who have insurance coverage for mental health treatment have court ordered treatment covered. Individuals with insurance coverage are currently able to decide what treatment they choose based on the provider's willingness to accept a specific insurance plan. In court proceedings, individuals are often ordered to see a specific court appointed therapist or health care provider. In these instances the individual is left with little choice but to comply with the court order.

I have also submitted a bill in Judiciary to allow individuals the ability to choose a therapist or provider in their insurance plan, as these folks need some protection for the instances where there is no provider available.

Ensuring these individuals forced to see a court appointed therapist do not experience any additional financial hardship when they already have insurance covering mental health services is the right thing to do. I ask that you please support H.B 5836 and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dan Carter
State Representative, 2nd District