

6267

Testimony of Representative Minnie Gonzalez
Public Health Committee
Friday, February 20, 2015

House Bill #6267, AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE FAMILY COURT SYSTEM.

Good morning afternoon Chairman Ritter, Chairwoman Gerratana and members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the committee this afternoon. I am Representative Minnie Gonzalez and I represent the 3rd Assembly District in Hartford. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6267, An Act Creating A Task Force To Study The Department Of Public Health's Involvement In The Family Court System.

This is an important bill that is needed as we move forward to address the broken family court system. I can go on for a long time about the problems that exist related to this issue, but I would like to name a few this task force should study.

- Right now, judges have are allowed to send clients to therapists that do not necessarily accept their medical insurance. Clients are forced to pay out of pocket or risk going against the judge's orders. Clients are fully capable of hiring their own therapists that take their insurance.
- Judges sometimes send clients to meet with out of state therapists there are plenty of therapists in Connecticut.
- After receiving an evaluation, it is often thrown out by judges if it is more than 6 months old. That forces clients to then pay for more evaluations.

This task force is essential if we are to move this issue forward. I have another concern that this bill does not appear on the online schedule for public hearing today and the agenda is not accessible from the committee web site. If this is the case, it is my opinion this bill should be placed on a future publicly accessible agenda.

I thank you once again and urge the committees support.