

Melinda Montovani Brain Injury Alliance of CT | 200 Day Hill Rd. Suite 250 | Windsor, CT

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee;

My name is Melinda Montovani. I am a social worker at the Brain Injury Alliance of CT and a resident of West Hartford. I am submitting testimony in Support of HB 6938 (AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND MODERNIZATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES).

I work with individuals with brain injuries, many of whom are on Medicaid. One of the biggest obstacles they face in their recovery is lack of access to needed services and to qualified professionals. They often have problems that go untreated for long periods of time as proper diagnostics are not authorized. When they are properly diagnosed, often times some symptoms can be treated and resolved. This costs the state less money.

The State Innovation Model (SIM) is looking at the healthcare system through the lens of overtreatment as the issue. As they put financial incentives on Providers to keep total cost of care low, Providers can end up not offering appropriate diagnostic tests and end up restricting care. Those individuals who are already being underserved may be limited further. The SIM shared savings model has not addressed how they will avoid these problems and yet they plan to launch the program even though it may not be in the best interest of Medicaid recipients.

Our organization signed onto a letter to CMS voicing our concerns of the use of SIM funds.

I support the Healthcare Advocate conducting a study considering the feasibility of using currently available federal funds or seeking federal funds for the SIM to establish a model program in Waterbury. I would support looking at constructive ways to use SIM funds rather than putting them to use in a manner that can negatively impact healthcare in the Medicaid population.

I ask you to support HB 6938. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.