SAMPLE TESTIMONY
(email testimony to: pri@cga.ct.gov)

Testimony of George Ryan in Support of RHB 6854, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF CERTAIN DATA BY MANAGED CARE COMPANIES AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES TO THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Before the Program Review and Investigations Committee February 27, 2015 1:00 p.m.

Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Carpino and members of the committee, my name is George Ryan and I am a member of Coalition for a Better Wallingford in Wallingford, CT. Many of us testified in favor of the committee's 2014 bills to assist families with private insurance who were unable to obtain help for adolescents and young adults with mental health and substance abuse disorders. We were disappointed in the veto last year of the bill to track denials of care. According to the bill's sponsors, a last minute change in the bill shifted the reporting requirement from insurance companies to Access Connecticut. Access Connecticut felt they could not handle the requirement and the bill was vetoed. It is our understanding that the parties have agreed to meet with legislative sponsors to set up a reporting method that will be acceptable.

Families and insurance regulators need to know which insurance companies are issuing denials for mental health and substance abuse treatment so this practice can be changed. Treatment for these illnesses is beyond the ability of parents who are overwhelmed with caring for an adolescent facing addiction or mental health problems. Please help these families and support RHB 6854.