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**Connecticut State Medical Society
Testimony In support of Senate Bill 99
An Act Concerning Benefits Payable For Assessments To Determine A Diagnosis Of A
Condition And Related Consultations
Presented to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 1, 2016**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 99 An Act Concerning Benefits Payable For Assessments To Determine A Diagnosis Of A Condition And Related Consultations. The bill before you today would be another step taken by this body to elevate the treatment for mental health and nervous conditions to the same level as all other diseases. We further hope it would be another step in eliminating the stigma that often is associated with such diseases.

This proposed legislation would prevent insurers from limiting the number of necessary visits to a health care provider or multicare institution to assess patients for the diagnosis of these difficult conditions. Furthermore, it would require coverage for any necessary consultation with a healthcare provider for an assessment during and after a diagnosis of a mental or nervous condition.

Diagnosing and treating mental and nervous conditions is complex and difficult process. Unlike many medical conditions that can be diagnosed visually or through concise testing, Often, proper diagnosis and treatment of mental health and nervous conditions can only be made after multiple visits and includes a wide variety of health care professionals. Therefore, it is imperative the appropriate benefits and services are available to return these patients to optimal health.

Please support SB 99.