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March 10, 2016

Testimony before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee regarding:

**S.B. No. 373 – AN ACT LIMITING CHANGES TO HEALTH INSURERS'  
PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARIES**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Suzi Craig and I am the Senior Director of Advocacy at Mental Health Connecticut. As an advocacy organization, direct service provider and educator, Mental Health Connecticut is on a mission to improve the mental health for all Connecticut residents.

I am here today to express our support for SB 373, An Act Limiting Changes to Health Insurers' Prescription Drug Formularies.

SB 373 prohibits a removal of a prescription drug, reclassification, or placement of such drug in a higher cost-sharing tier for the duration of a health plan year. This legislation prevents removal of prescription drugs mid-plan, while allowing drugs to be added during that time.

Many times people choose their plan based on prescription drug benefits and this would ensure that they could get their medications for the life of the plan. Some persons experiencing mental health conditions can rely heavily on medications as a form of treatment. A shift in medication during treatment can have serious effects on – and possible derailment of – their recovery.

We are in support of this bill and encourage you to pass this legislation to ensure consistency in prescription drug coverage for Connecticut residents.

Thank you for your time and for your service.

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