



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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### Testimony

### In support of HB 6559

### Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

March 17, 2017

Co-Charis Fonfara, Rojas and Frantz, Ranking Member Davis, and Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of **House Bill 6559: An Act Establishing a Credit Against the Hospital Tax for Hospitals that Make Beds Available for Opioid Addiction Treatment Services.**

The opioid addiction crisis is a tremendous challenge facing Connecticut's citizens and communities. The crisis has also put an unforeseen burden on the state's health care providers, particularly hospitals. The increased need for treatment for our state's individuals struggling with addiction has required hospitals to provide that care, even if the individual cannot pay for it.

This financial burden may force hospitals to turn away addicted individuals, and the burden caused by a lack of beds available in facilities may put more members of our communities at risk. This provision to provide a tax incentive to hospitals that designate beds for opioid addiction treatment services alleviates that financial burden, and also guarantees that addicted individuals will be able to receive the treatment that they need to ultimately recover.

I urge the committee to pass House Bill 6559 because it will benefit addicts, hospitals, and communities around Connecticut. Thank you for your time.