



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of House Bill Number 5441 Insurance Committee February 7, 2017

Chairmen Larson, Kelly and Scanlon, Ranking Member Sampson and Members of the Insurance Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising **House Bill Number 5441: An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Long-Term Addiction Treatment**.

This bill is an important proposal to help those who suffer from addiction to be able to get the mental health help they need to become drug free, healthy, and productive members of our society. Last session, we all worked in a bipartisan manner, to pass legislation to help put a stop to our opioid epidemic. Although the bill was not perfect, this was a step in the right direction. However, more is needed on the ground level to help addicts get and stay clean and make meaningful permanent changes in their lives.

Many addicts are released from the hospital after a couple of days of detox only to have no supports, therapy or safety net in place making them extremely vulnerable to relapse. We need to have better treatment and coverage options in place to make sobriety a reachable goal and to help end this epidemic.

I urge the Insurance Committee to pass Raised Bill Number 5441 to require health insurance coverage for long-term addiction treatment. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve the quality of care this vulnerable group needs to help them make a full recovery.