

Good morning, Senator Kelly, Senator Larson, Representative Scanlon, and distinguished members of the Insurance Committee:

My name is Tina M. Corlett and I am a resident of Fairfield, Ct, and LCSW at Greenwich Human Services, and Region 1 and 2 Catchment Area Council Chair at The Southwest Regional Mental Health Board. I am writing to you today to seek your support of H.B. 6887., An Act Expanding Coverage for Mental Health Care Services and Substance Abuse Services.

It is crucial that you support an expansion of insurance coverage for both case management and peer support services. I ask your support as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Greenwich Department of Social Services and former Residential Support Services Director at Pathways, Inc. where I am reminded om a daily basis how case management services are desperately needed to assist people in recovery to achieve their full potential. Without these services, people in recovery are left to their own devices to navigate a fragmented system that even seasoned professionals find extremely challenging if not impossible to manage.

As a person who has lived experience of mental illness and as someone who has experienced instances of mental health and substance abuse in my family (my brother died of suicide) I have seen firsthand what happens when people are not supported in their recovery.

As you consider the merits of H.B. 6887 please consider that by requiring health insurance to cover the payment of services provided by Case Managers and Peer Recovery Support Specialists, that you will not only be improving the lives of thousands of Connecticut residents, but that you will be doing so in a fashion that makes imminent fiscal sense, especially in consideration of the severe budgetary constraints faced by Connecticut.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

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