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From: Margaret Watt <mwatt@swrmhb.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:54 AM
To: INSTestimony
Cc: Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey; Rep. McCarthy Vahey, Cristin
Subject: Ins. Committee meeting 2/23 - Further comments on HB 6887

Dear chairs & members of the Insurance Committee:

I would like to thank you for proposing to draft HB 6887 as a committee bill, following last week's public hearing. As we discussed during the various testimonies on this subject, the services proposed to be covered in this bill (certified peer support services, case management & coordination) are not available in the private sector. Based on the Insurance Department's testimony, coverage would seem to be possible when & if "medical necessity" is identified, which may be the crux of this argument.

Medical necessity is determined by a medical provider. These services are preventive, rehabilitative, and recovery-oriented; not medical in nature though equally if not more critical--and certainly less costly. It may be possible to change basic language such as the definition of "medical necessity" or who can define it, and to provide clarification (including sample service codes) to providers.

Those of us who testified last week continue to discuss these issues and would be happy to participate in any further discussion around specifying which peer services or case management services, provided in what context, etc. We can also share more data with you if you would like.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and thanks again to Rep. McCarthy-Vahey for bringing this bill concept forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions; my contact info is below.

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