



Quality is Our Bottom Line

INSURANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH PLANS

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

SB 384 AAC MENTAL HEALTH PARITY, DATA REPORTED BY MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans urges rejection of SB 384. The bill represents a substantial change to the underlying statute that doesn't lend itself to review over just four days since its release - two of which were weekend days. Connecticut has strong mental health parity laws on the books, many of which predate the federal act, and we do not support further expansion at this point. We also cannot commit to the burdensome reporting standards required by this proposal. In order for data to be meaningful, it must be collected in an organized and systematic fashion that accounts for different IT platforms and policies etc. Attempts to rush the collection will only result in frustration on behalf of both those who want the information as well as those that have to generate it as the outcome will likely be useless even though it was resource intensive to produce. That's exactly the reason that the Association supported development of the All Payer Claims Database (APCD) so that policy makers would have a complete data repository to rely upon in making better public policy. It has taken a few years to get off the ground for exactly these reasons noted herein. It takes time, dedication, and expertise to collect and synthesize data in a way that makes in meaningful to interpret. The APCD is now up and running and collecting real-time submissions from the health plans. It is complete with an oversight advisory body as well as a number of subcommittee groups that are made up of stakeholders. We would urge the proponents of this legislation to work with the APCD on a query that answers the questions presented.

We respectfully oppose SB 384. Thank you for your consideration.