

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am writing on the behalf of passing the raised bill No.5162. My name is Taylor Linsmeier, I am a BSW student at Southern Connecticut State University. I am currently enrolled in an internship program at Continuum of Care, Inc. which is a social service agency. My specific program in the agency focuses on adults with a history of homelessness and a mental health diagnoses. This bill is both personally and professionally important to me. I know that this bill is concerned with children receiving adequate treatment for mental health, and I work with adults. The adults I serve and have working relationships with were once children, however, and knowing the stories and struggles of my clients I know that this population could have benefitted greatly from adequate mental health care when they were children. This study could benefit the social service system because it could begin caring for mental health earlier rather than later. Beginning this work with children is a more preventative measure and could enrich lives starting at a younger age. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) “of Connecticut’s approximately 3.5 million residents, close to 109,000 adults live with serious mental illness and about 39,000 children live with serious mental health conditions”. It is possible that with the passing of this bill would prevent some of the 39,000 children who live with serious mental illness from living without treatment. I hope that this issue tugs on your heart strings as much as it does mine! And I look forward to potentially meeting and talking with some of you about this bill in the future.

Thank you,
Taylor Linsmeier