



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

To: Public Health Committee
From: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon Ph.D., Commissioner
Date: March 5, 2018
Re: Written Testimony regarding HB 5163

Please accept this written testimony from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), on Raised House Bill 5163 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES.

Section 37 of this bill expands the ability to witness advanced health care instructions, the appointment of a health care representative, the designation of a conservator of the person for future incapacity, and a document of anatomical gift for persons who reside in facilities operated by the DMHAS to advanced practice registered nurses. Many individuals receiving services from DMHAS have or would like to prepare advanced health care instructions. DMHAS supports this change in statute which will enhance the capacity of individuals to create advanced healthcare instructions.

Section 40 of this bill includes a recommendation that was developed following the passage of Special Act No. 17-21 which required a workgroup consisting of representatives from the Department of Developmental Services, DMHAS, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Public Health, and nonprofit providers to conduct a review of state agency certification and licensure processes of certain nonprofit community providers and to identify potential efficiencies. A week-long cross-agency Lean event took place in November 2017, which resulted in a number of legislative proposals aimed at lessening the administrative impact on nonprofits and reducing time away from the individuals who they support. DMHAS would like to support the workgroup recommendations, including the one contained in this bill section.

Thank you for considering this testimony during your deliberations related to HB 5163.