



DATE: Monday, March 5, 2018  
TO: Public Health Committee  
FROM: Brunilda Ferraj, Director of Policy Research & Organizational Initiatives  
RE: H.B. No. 5163 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes

Good morning Sen. Gerratana, Sen. Somers, Rep. Steinberg, Rep. Betts and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Brunilda Ferraj, Director of Policy Research and Organizational Initiatives at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance. The Alliance is Connecticut's statewide association of community nonprofits. Our members deliver essential services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut's workforce.

I am here to testify **in support of Section 40 of House Bill No. 5163** "An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes."

Last year, the General Assembly passed Special Act 17-21, "An Act Establishing a Working Group to Review the Licensure and Certification Process for Certain Nonprofit Community Providers." That statute called for the Office of Policy and Management to convene a working group of multiple state agencies and community providers to participate in a Lean process to streamline and standardize the State's licensure and certification processes.

The recommendations before you are the result of months of collaborative work between the provider community and representatives from OPM, DCF, DDS, DMHAS, and DPH. All stakeholders involved agreed upon and developed these recommendations to lessen the administrative burden on community providers and make available valuable resources to continue serving people in need.

**Please support Section 40 of House Bill 5163**, which removes the requirement that licensure applications be notarized. One of the recommendations of the Licensure and Certification Workgroup was to completely eliminate paper in the licensure process, but statute requires applications to be notarized. In a time when electronic signatures are accepted on legal and financial documents, the requirement that certain state applications be notarized is outdated.

Finally, please support more of this kind of system change in the future. As directed by SA 17-21, community providers have been involved in this process every step of the way, and our state agency partners have been sincere about the need to change. There are now eight subcommittees of the Licensure and Certification Workgroup with 42 members working on implementing recommendations, and community providers are serving on each one. **Please use this process as a model to address other redundant and inefficient systems within state government in the future.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for more information at [bferraj@ctnonprofitalliance.org](mailto:bferraj@ctnonprofitalliance.org).