



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE THEMIS KLARIDES
ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

REPUBLICAN LEADER

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700 or TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
Themis.Klarides@housegop.ct.gov

**Testimony in Support of
H.B. 5192: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program Allowing a Tax Credit for
Hospitals that Make Beds Available for Opioid Addiction Treatment Services
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
March 4, 2019**

Good Afternoon Chairmen Rojas and Fonfara, Ranking Members Davis and Witkos, and Members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing **House Bill 5192: An Act Establishing a Pilot Program Allowing a Tax Credit for Hospitals that Make Beds Available for Opioid Addiction Treatment Services**.

Opioid abuse has gripped our nation. The epidemic knows no educational or socioeconomic boundaries, and has proven to be one of the largest and far-reaching social and public health epidemics of our time. The epidemic knows no age and has affected individuals in high school, college, and throughout their adult life.

House Bill 5192 is a vital step in addressing the need for opioid addiction treatment. This bill would establish a pilot program allowing for a credit to be used against the hospital tax for those hospitals that make beds available for opioid addiction treatment services. House Bill 5192 is another facet and tool for public health professionals to use to ensure addiction treatment is available to those who need it most in our communities. The legislature should be doing everything within our power to protect our citizens from the dangers of opioid abuse, and this bill would play a pivotal role within the larger strategy to treat the disease of drug addiction.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5192. I strongly urge the committee to pass this bill in order to provide the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this important legislation.