

From: David Michel <davidmichel74@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 7:45 PM
To: INSTestimony; matt.lesser@cga.ct.gov; Rep. Scanlon, Sean
Cc: Rep. Michel, David; Flores, Joshua
Subject: In Favor of HB 5270 Testimony

Dear Co Chairs Lesser and Scanlon, Esteemed member of the committee,

I write today in support of Proposed House Bill 5270 (I introduced) in favor of Health Insurance covering Peer Support.

I know you have lots of emails to read and I'll leave your attention for public comments however it is important that I stress the fact that DMHAS defunding both mental health and Addiction boards and consolidating into Behavioral Health Boards only reinforces the fact we need to make sure those needing Behavioral Health Support can get it in the most effective ways and the least costly to the tax payers through Peer Support.

I have many Health Professionals who have voiced their opinion very strongly in favor of such bill. Additionally I have many constituents that are in dire need of peer support and cannot afford it. As it is part of therapy and contributing to out-patient programs, I believe that it absolutely deserves to be part of what is covered by Health Insurance. I also have constituents who are Peer Support Specialists. It seems like common sense to all I have spoken to about this in the last 5 months.

I do think that maybe some slight language change would be better and instead of “..mental health..” it should be “..behavioral health..” as it is written on line 6. But This could have additional ramifications so not 100% sure. I trust the public hearing will bring more information to the table.

Kind regards,

Rep. David Michel
1-914-843-7545

David Michel

***CT State Representative for the 146th House District,
Honored to represent South End, Shippan and Downtown in Stamford,
As the rest of Connecticut.***

***Co-Chair of the Legislators for Animal Advocacy Caucus
Assistant to the Majority Leader***

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