



Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 1035 (RAISED) **AN ACT AUTHORIZING DEEMED STATUS LICENSE RENEWALS FOR CERTAIN NONPROFIT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

March 25, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, Senator Anwar, Senator Lesser, Representative Young, Senator Sommers, Representative Petit and members of the Public Health Committee.

I am writing to strongly support **S.B. 1035**, a **bill that would reduce costs for nonprofit providers by providing a means for them to forgo duplicative state licensing requirements for certain license and certificate renewals if they are accredited by an accepted national accrediting body that has requirements more stringent than the state's requirements.**

The passage of this bill would lighten the workload of the applicable social service organization by eliminating some of the duplicative activities covered both during the licensing and accreditation processes. The language of the bill provides several layers of safeguards that will uphold the goal of high-quality services to those with behavioral health challenges.

For a social service organization to be eligible to apply for deemed status under this bill, such an organization would have already met the licensing requirements of the CT Department of Public Health for various levels of behavioral health care. This bill will not diminish the quality and oversight of these clinical services, but rather streamline the process of License Renewal, benefitting both the Agency being relicensed and the Health Department's Review staff. Accrediting bodies have standards that exceed State licensing requirement for behavioral Health services. Again, program quality would not be compromised.

Dual relicensing and accreditation processes are time consuming for nonprofit service providers. With many such agencies having to do more with less, this efficiency would allow agency staff to invest their time in other valuable activities. Nonprofit organizations struggle to always find the funding to support programs. Efficiencies in processes like licensure allow the transfer of labor to other activities that nonprofits employ to build sustainability.

Please understand that the enactment of this bill would in no way replace the requirement of appropriate licensing requirements for services that meet the needs of very vulnerable people.

The enactment of this bill would apply innovative solutions to reduce duplication of processes that will continue to assure the provision of quality services in a more efficient way.

Please vote YES to this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

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President & CEO

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