

**Testimony of NAMI Connecticut
By Lisa Winjum, JD
Executive Director
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 27, 2020**

In support of: H.B. 5250: AN ACT PROHIBITING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING CLINICALLY INAPPROPRIATE QUANTITIES OF OUTPATIENT PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS.

Senator Lessor, Representative Scanlon, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee; I am Lisa Winjum, the Executive Director of the Connecticut State Office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Connecticut). NAMI is the nation's largest mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMI Connecticut has been providing support groups, education programs, and advocacy for people, including children, affected by mental illness for 35 years.

NAMI Connecticut (NAMI CT) envisions a world where all people affected in any way by mental health conditions experience the best possible quality of life and where mental health is accepted as an integral part of overall wellbeing.

We support H.B. 5250: AN ACT PROHIBITING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIBING CLINICALLY INAPPROPRIATE QUANTITIES OF OUTPATIENT PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS. Insurance Companies should not interfere in the doctor patient relationship. Doctors, not legislators or insurance companies should make the decisions in the best interests of the patient's treatment. Too little or too much medication can leave to safety issues and to patients' not receiving the appropriate care, including putting patients at risk for suicide or receiving the necessary medications to ensure they can experience the best quality of life.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Winjum
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