

Hello,

My name is Nori Gordon. I am a clinical psychologist in private practice in Glastonbury, CT. I would like to express my enthusiastic support for bills H. B. 5596 and S.B. 1022. During this pandemic, mental health has become more important than ever. So many people are suffering. They have endured terrible losses (loved ones, jobs, health, etc.) and their lives will be changed forever. It is critical that we do everything in our power to make accessing mental health care as easy as possible. We are a nation in crisis. We need to enable everyone who wants it, the ability to get mental health treatment without undue hardship or risk of safety. Even when it is safe to meet in person, there are many people who would have a much harder time accessing mental health treatment if remote visits were not available. My elderly clients and those with jobs that do not afford a flexible schedule are two groups who would be much less able to access mental health treatment if telehealth is no longer covered. We need to make sure that not only those who are privileged can access treatment. All of society is negatively impacted when certain populations are not able to access care.

We also need to ensure that providers who are delivering this critical care are being fairly paid. The work is grueling and exhausting. There is no justification for reducing payment, simply because the services are not taking place in the same physical location. Mental health treatment is effective and life saving. The parties do not need to be in close physical proximity for this to be true. Clinicians deserve to be paid fairly.

Please consider these factors and do what is right and just. Make it easier for people to get help, and pay those who provide this critical service fairly.

Thank you,
Nori Gordon, Psy.D.