

Committee on Children JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-217
Title: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A UNIVERSAL PATIENT INTAKE FORM FOR RECIPIENTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.
Vote Date: 3/5/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/29/2024
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Committee on Children

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist.
Sen. Martha Marx, 20th Dist.
Sen. Julie Kushner, 24th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would establish a working group with the purpose of recommending the creation of a universal patient intake form to the Department of Public Health.

The development of the universal patient intake form will allow for both the providers and the children and their families to experience streamlined behavioral health services.

The substitute language clarifies the timeframe of which the intake form is implemented.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

NOTE: TESTIMONY MAY NOT REFLECT CURRENT LANGUAGE OF THE BILL

[The State of Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate, Child Advocate Sarah Eagan,](#) on behalf of OCA, supports this bill as it will relieve a lot of the stress and confusion families and their children face when seeking out treatment for their child's behavioral health concerns.

[State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Commissioner-Designate, Jodi Hill-Lilly](#), supports this bill with the suggestion that the working group reports their findings and recommendations back to the legislature so that all obstacles and concerns can be addressed prior to development of the form.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Advocacy Chair for the Connecticut Association for Marriage and Family Therapy \(CTAMFT\), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist \(LMFT\), Jaime Rodriguez](#), supports this bill and states in her testimony that it will help the other LMFT's, and mental health professionals in her field, treat the ever-growing influx of children experiencing mental health disorder symptoms and diagnoses. She also states that families and children seeking out these services will benefit from the easier intake process.

[Parent, LMFT, Rebecca Martorella](#), supports this bill and states that she has sought out behavioral health services consistently for the last decade and the universal intake form would alleviate the stress of current intake processes.

[Student at Ledyard High School, Raine Pongetti](#), supports this bill as it stands to make behavioral health services more accessible to children. She adds that improvements to such behavioral health services allows a brighter future for the younger generation.

[Student at Ledyard High School, Sarah Joy Dunsmore](#), supports this bill and adds that children and teenagers need support from legislatures so that they can succeed in school and in the future.

[Parent, Alisa Trachtenberg](#), support this bill and includes in her testimony additional information to include in the universal patient intake form that would help improve its scope.

[Public Policy and Affiliates Relations Manager of the Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI Connecticut\), Thomas Burr](#) supports this bill and states that early intervention for behavioral health needs in children is very important.

[Ellen Darvick](#) supports this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[Connecticut Hospital Association](#) opposes this bill and expresses several of their concerns and ideas for improvement regarding the working group and the information being requested on the universal patient intake form.

Reported by: Cathleen Collins

Date: 3/14/2024