



January 27, 2015

Dear Senator Bob Duff and Representative Claire Janowski and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. to strongly urge the reappointment of Patricia Rehmer as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

Ms. Rehmer has accomplished much in her tenure to develop and encourage services that support recovery and oppose discriminatory practices that impact persons with mental health and/or addiction disorders. She has promoted services that enhance integrated health care and wellness. She has enhanced communication and collaboration between state agencies that have a role in preserving and promoting the health of our communities. She has worked hard to preserve system capacity in a time a severe economic hardship. She has promoted and secured funding for the implementation of evidence-based practices that are having a positive impact in the lives of the people we serve and their communities.

Our Board's responsibility is to study the mental health needs of people in our region and assist the DMHAS with setting priorities for improved and expanded services to meet those needs. Our constituents include people who use mental health and addiction services, their families and concerned citizens in the towns and cities where services are delivered. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be carrying out this work given the strong leadership that Ms. Rehmer has provided for the State of Connecticut.

It is with much gratitude and from this perspective that we strongly urge you to reappoint Ms. Rehmer as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Respectfully,

Marcia DuFore
Executive Director