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Veterans' Affairs Committee

Human Services Committee
March 11, 2021
Zoom 10:00 AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 981
An Act Concerning Payment Parity For Health And Human Services Providers

Chairwoman Moore, Chairwoman Abercrombie, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 981, *An Act Concerning Payment Parity For Health And Human Services Providers*.

For the transcript, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

As you may recall, in the 2019 regular legislative session, I introduced Senate Bill 299, *An Act Concerning Payment Parity for Certain Assistance Programs*, which was referred to this committee. In speaking with the leaders and staff of the tremendous nonprofit agencies throughout northeastern and eastern Connecticut, I have learned that there is evidence to support the fact that the "Quiet Corner" does not receive adequate per client payments in our state's social service programs, when compared with the rest of the state.

It remains my hope that the Commissioners of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Housing can fully investigate this issue and report back to this committee with appropriate corrective measures to ensure all of our state's nonprofits are treated fairly and equitably.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 981. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this bill's passage.