

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-981

AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENT PARITY FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN

Title: SERVICES PROVIDERS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill is proposed to evaluate whether current payment structures lead to payment inequities for health and human services providers, depending on where the services are provided in the state, and implement recommendations to achieve payment parity.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deidre Gifford, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Social Services

The Commissioner noted that this bill requires DSS to study whether state-contracted providers of human services receive disparate payment rates. The Commissioner noted that DSS pays for Medicaid and CHIP services using uniform statewide rates and such rates do not vary from region to region of the state. Also, DSS does not provide housing and shelter for homeless people. The Commissioner indicated that the bill was not clear as to whether the term "human services" was intended to apply to other programs funded by DSS. The Commissioner indicated a willingness for further discussion to determine whether there is an appropriate role for DSS in such a study.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Cathy Osten, Senator-19th District, Connecticut General Assembly

Senator Osten referenced a bill, SB 299 An Act Concerning Payment Parity for Certain Assistance Programs, proposed in 2019 and intended to address evidence supporting the fact that non-profit agencies in towns in her district were not receiving adequate per client payments for the state's social programs, when compared with the rest of the state. Senator Osten supports the need for a study to determine whether there are disparities and, if so, implement corrective actions to remedy the situation. Senator Osten asked that a report of the study be brought back to the Human Services Committee for evaluation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: David Rackliffe

Date: March 30, 2021