



In Support of SB 987: AN ACT CONCERNING REINVESTMENT OF SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH A REDUCTION IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATION INTO REENTRY AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Good morning Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom and members of the Committee. My name is Wanda Jofre and I'm a licensed clinical social worker in the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I work in mobile crisis as a trained clinician at Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, where we provide psychiatric crisis services. The Mobile Crisis Team assesses the individuals' need for services, and assists in resolving the crisis. I'm here today to ask that you to pass Senate Bill 987.

Our services are critical to individuals because we meet them where they are at in their crisis. This is a pivotal moment in their life where intervention and support can mean all the difference in that exact moment. This can mean whether they end up in a hospital, in jail, dead or not. It is very powerful to engage someone in the middle of their crisis and help to change the outcome.

One anecdotal situation I can tell you was when we received a call from a parent that their son was having a psychotic episode. The son had a knife to his sister's throat and she was concerned that if she called the police, it would escalate. For the safety of all, I drove with the officer to the home. We worked with the family for almost five hours to safely get this young adult the help he needed. The collaboration with the local police and clinician from mobile crisis was life saving for this family and that young man.

Again, this event clearly demonstrates the need for mobile crisis and the impact our services have on the lives of members within our community. I urge you to support the expansion of DMHAS mobile crisis statewide by investing in these services. Please pass Senate Bill 987. Thank you for your time.