

March 16, 2021

Dear Public Health Committee:

I am writing in support of SB1 *AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC with amendments*. Health disparities are a serious issue in CT, as the pandemic clearly has illuminated, and they must be addressed

I urge you to add to this bill the language from the broad coalition concerned about discriminatory rationing of healthcare. They have been asking DPH for almost a year now to do what most other states already did early in the pandemic- or even before it hit-- and that is to issue uniform statewide guidance to all hospitals prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, disability or age in the rationing of life-sustaining health care, should that be necessary. In the absence of any such clear guidance, the coalition reports some CT hospitals have issued protocols with provisions which effectively discriminate, while many hospitals have no guidance at all -- providing an opening for implicit bias, which is well-documented as occurring particularly in times of crisis.

Thank you for adding this language to the bill.

Regards,

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