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Testimony before the Public Safety and Security Committee

SB 572: An Act Concerning Community Crisis Response Teams and Reentry Centers

Jane E. M. Carter, PhD New Haven, CT

Good afternoon Senator Bradley, Representative Horn, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Jane E. M. Carter, clinical psychology postdoctoral associate at Yale Health in New Haven, and I am here today to testify in favor of SB 572, An Act Concerning Community Crisis Response Teams and Reentry Centers.

In a conversation about state and municipalities response to people in crisis, I am in favor of broadening the available options for people in crisis within our system. I completed my intern year at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, specifically working on the Adult Inpatient Service. A part of my job involved coordinating Case Conferences for my patients who were in need of a disposition plan post hospital admission. Case conferences involved hospital and community providers, family and friend support (if available) and housing authorities. Disposition plans were made in collaboration with Connecticut State **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)** that would include a safe housing option for the individual being discharged from the hospital. Oftentimes the availability of transitional type supportive living situations was the main barrier to people being able to leave the hospital. A peer respite option would involve community members with their own lived experiences of crisis that provides a recovery oriented approach to crisis and care that is both more person centered as well as cost effective. According to [Mental Health America](#) (2018), peer support services are associated with reduced inpatient stays, reduced rehospitalization rates and overall reduction in cost of services. I write in support of working to establish peer respite facilities in the state of Connecticut, as this offers one means to address a clear need in our community.

I would like to thank Senator Bradley, Representative Horn, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee for hearing my testimony. This is an important public health and safety issue, and it is a testament to your

commitment to the community that we have gotten to this stage. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to next steps.