



**TO: Insurance & Real Estate Committee**  
**FROM: Samantha Bell, CT Community Nonprofit Alliance**  
**RE: HB 5518 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5518 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR LONG-TERM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES.

My name is Samantha Bell, Public Policy Intern, at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance). The Alliance is Connecticut's statewide advocacy organization representing nonprofits, with a membership of more than 300 community organizations and associations across the state. Nonprofits deliver essential community services to more than half a million people each year and employ almost 14% of Connecticut's workforce.

HB 5518 would require health insurance coverage for long-term substance use disorder services. Recovering from a substance use disorder is a lifelong process, but most private insurers only cover a few days' worth of treatment, leaving clients without the tools and adequate treatment they need to be successful. Whereas, long-term services provide clients with around-the-clock support and act as a respite after intensive therapies and before returning home. These important and effective programs exist to decrease the likelihood of relapse.

Medicaid covers many of these services, but private insurance does not. This leaves privately insured clients with limited treatment options, creating a parity issue across levels of care.

We support expanding health insurance to include coverage for long-term services for substance use disorders. It is an important step in achieving equitable access to all available treatment options, ensuring clients receive the best care possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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