

State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR JOE MARKLEY
SIXTEENTH DISTRICT

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June 9, 2014

The Honorable Don Williams
Senate President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building
Room 3300
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

CC:

Senator John Kissel, Co-Chair,
Program Review and Investigations Committee
Legislative Office Building
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300 Capitol Avenue
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Representative Mary Mushinsky, Co-Chair,
Program Review and Investigations Committee
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RANKING MEMBER
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
LABOR COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PROGRAM REVIEW &
INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

The Honorable Brendan Sharkey
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building
Room 4100
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

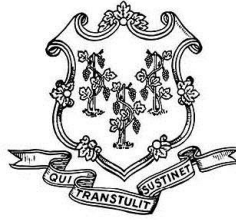
Senator John Fonfara, Ranking Member,
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Representative Christie Carpino, Ranking
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To President Williams and Speaker Sharkey:

This year, Democrats and Republicans stood together to show our support for a bill that would have helped us better assess the availability and accessibility of substance abuse treatment in Connecticut.

House Bill 5375, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Reporting of Certain Data by Managed Care Organizations and



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Health Insurance Companies to the Insurance Department, was passed unanimously in both the House and Senate this year.

The legislation was based on recommendations made by the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee, and would have required managed care organizations report more information on substance abuse treatment to the state Insurance Department. With more information available, state officials could gain a better understanding of the current substance abuse treatment system in Connecticut, with the ultimate goal of improving access to quality care. Unfortunately, the bill was vetoed by the governor on May 29, 2014.

The General Assembly will soon hold its veto override session. At that time, I ask that you recognize the importance of House Bill 5375 by giving legislators an opportunity to debate the bill and to vote on a possible override of the governor's veto.

We know there are gaps in our healthcare system that create obstacles for people who struggle with addiction—adolescents in particular—and for their families. Every member of our legislature recognized the need to address these problems by providing unanimous support for House Bill 5375. I hope the override session will be a chance to revisit this legislation and reaffirm our commitment to aid the rising generation.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

State Senator Joe Markley