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**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of House Bill 5518
An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Long-Term Substance Use Disorder
Services
Insurance And Real Estate Committee
February 7, 2019**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of **House Bill 5518 AN Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Long-Term Substance Use Disorder Services.**

Substance Use Disorder is a life-long debilitating disease like conditions such as diabetes, Crohn's disease, Lupus, and others. As such, Substance Use Disorder often requires a long-term treatment approach. Physicians trained in addiction medicine are the best qualify to determine when long-term treatment is necessary and what type of long-term treatment best benefits the patient given their condition. Therefore, parity in coverage must be provided for Substance Use Disorder when deemed medically necessary by the treating physician.

CSMS supports House Bill 5518.