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**Testimony in Support of
HB 6095 AN ACT MODIFYING REQUIRED
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION.**

**Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physician-in-training members of Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **HB 6095 AN ACT MODIFYING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DETOXIFICATION.**

CSMS has long advocated for parity in coverage for all diseases including mental health, behavioral health and alcohol and substance abuse. Often appropriate coverage is simply not available to treat patients suffering from addiction, one of the biggest public health crises we face today. Without a doubt, more attention and funding needs to be allocated to patients suffering from addiction.

The proposed legislation before you today will take an additional step in the right direction by amending the health insurance coverage for detoxification treatment, improving access to care for those suffering from this disease and guaranteeing reimbursement to those providing treatment for the disorder.

Our organization has consistently stated that services deemed to be medically necessary in the clinical and professional judgment of a physician should be considered medically necessary for coverage purposes. Medical necessity determinations should not be the opinion of the various individuals who provide utilization review for insurers or who have no training or expertise in the evaluation, assessment or medical treatment being provided.

Appropriate insurance coverage is only a small portion of what needs to be done to address the disease of addiction and its public health, personnel, family and societal impact. We look forward to continued collaboration with this committee and others to address this issue.