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**Testimony in Support of**  
**House Bill No. 7125 AN ACT CONCERNING PARITY FOR MENTAL**  
**HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER BENEFITS, NONQUANTITATIVE**  
**TREATMENT LIMITATIONS, DRUGS PRESCRIBED FOR THE TREATMENT**  
**OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**  
**Insurance and Real Estate Committee**  
**March 5, 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 present this testimony to you today in support of House Bill 7125 An Act Concerning Parity For Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Benefits, Nonquantitative Treatment Limitations, Drugs Prescribed for the Treatment of Substance Use Disorders, and Substance Abuse Services.

CSMS supports this bill and the important additional patient protections it will put in place in Connecticut, including those that better report and record how insurers are ensuring mental health parity in their business practices. Having actual data to evaluate will be invaluable in determining how well insurers are complying with mental health parity laws and, more importantly, if patients have access to and receive these important mental health and behavioral health services in Connecticut.

CSMS is proud to stand with our partners from the Connecticut Parity Coalition in support of this legislation. For too long our physician members have been before several committees of the General Assembly attempting to provide parity in coverage for mental health services, equal access to treatment for substance abuse disorders, and to remove the stigma attached to a disease associated with no other.

CSMS is committed to working with this committee and others to address these critical issues and provide the physician expertise necessary as this legislation moves forward.