



February 26, 2008

To: Human Services Committee
From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO
Re: HB 5617 A Delaying Implementation of and Making Revisions to the Charter Oak Health Plan

We would like to comment for the record on HB 5617 A Delaying Implementation of and Making Revisions to the Charter Oak Health Plan.

We have significant concern about the “unknowns” in the implementation of the Charter Oak Plan as they relate to the provision of behavioral health services.

It is our understanding that mental health and addiction treatment services are being “carved out” of the basic Charter Oak Plan, however, there is no clear specification about what the extent of these benefits will be.

- ◆ Will people with mental illness and addictions be covered under the same health insurance mandates and behavioral health parity as those with other illnesses, or will the mandate be reduced?
- ◆ Will Connecticut’s forward-thinking behavioral health parity legislation be in full force or will it be diminished in scope?

We support the provisions of HB 5617 (lines 48 – 53) that require that “the commissioner shall ensure that the plan includes comprehensive coverage for dental, vision and mental health services consistent with the provisions of section 38a-514...”

We urge you to review the full benefit package in the Charter Oak Plan before authorizing the state to implement the program.

Thank you for your consideration.

CCPA

35 Cold Springs Rd., Suite 522, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-3165
(P)860-257-7909 • (F)860-257-7777
www.ccpa-inc.org