

# VOTE YES ON H.B. 7125

## Support Mental Health Parity for Connecticut residents!

H.B. 7125 will ensure that Connecticut's private insurance plans are in full compliance with the 11+ year-old federal law, the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), which mandates that health insurance coverage is no less restrictive for mental health and substance use treatment than it is for medical and surgical care.

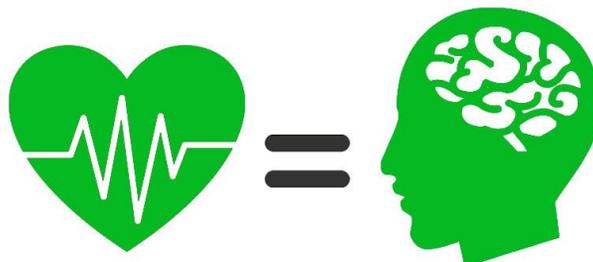
You may ask: if we have the federal law, why do we need this bill?

This bill is a part of a national effort to standardize parity reporting across the states led by former Congressman Patrick Kennedy, and is currently being adopted into law or introduced in **nearly 30 states**. Following the bill's unanimous passage by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee in March, the chairs of the Committee, the insurance industry, and the CT Parity Coalition have negotiated language that is agreeable to all parties.

According to a December 2017 report from Milliman that analyzed parity across all 50 states, Connecticut was identified as ***the state with the highest disparity*** between physical and behavioral healthcare in terms of proportions of office visits that were out of network. Significant disparities were also identified in inpatient care and payments to behavioral health providers compared with primary care providers.

H.B. 7125 will . . .

- Establish reporting requirements for insurers to demonstrate how they design and apply their managed care tactics, so regulators can determine if there is compliance
- Specify how Connecticut's state insurance department can implement parity and then report on their activities
- Help end the cost shifting that happens when families remove loved ones from their private insurance to receive better coverage from state Medicaid plans



[www.CTParityCoalition.org](http://www.CTParityCoalition.org)

The CT Parity Coalition is a group of advocates from various organizations and associations working with legislators, consumers, and other groups to rally support in 2019 for legislation that ensures compliance with the federal parity law within the private health insurance industry.

### **CT Parity Coalition Members (Organizations and Associations):**

Advocacy Unlimited  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, CT chapter (AFSP)  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society of Addiction Medicine, CT chapter (CTSAM)  
Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT)  
CT Association of Addiction Professionals (CAAP)  
CT Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
CT Community Nonprofit Alliance  
CT Counseling Association  
CT Legal Rights Project  
CT Nurses Association  
CT Psychiatric Society  
CT Psychological Association  
CT State Medical Society  
Mental Health Connecticut (MHC)  
NAMI CT  
NAMI Fairfield  
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter  
North Central Regional Mental Health Board  
Shatterproof  
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board (merger underway – to be known as:  
The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwest CT)

### **CT Parity Coalition Members (Individuals):**

Ewelina Chrzan, Attorney  
Arnold Menchel, Partner, Halloran Sage (and former CT Assistant Attorney General and former head of CT's Health Care Fraud/Whistleblower/Health Care Advocacy Department)

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## **CT Parity Coalition**

[www.CTparitycoalition.org](http://www.CTparitycoalition.org)

*Working to ensure Connecticut residents can access and receive equitable health insurance coverage*

To join the coalition or to learn more, contact:  
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