

**PA13-84**

SB1029

House	6210-6220	11
Insurance	1220-1222	3
Senate	1372-1386, 1509-1511	18
		<b>32</b>

**H – 1167**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL.56  
PART 18  
5882 – 6232**

Absent and not voting 13

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with the Senate. Will the Clerk please call Calendar number 559.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on page 26 of the Calendar, Calendar number 559, favorable report of the joint standing Committee on Insurance or Real Estate, and Senate Bill number 1029, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Abercrombie of the 83rd.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good evening.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Good evening.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Madam Speaker, I move for the acceptance of the joint committee's report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The question before us is acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill

in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Abercrombie, you have the floor, Ma'am.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6154. I ask that the Clerk call the amendment and that I be given leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will the Clerk please call LCO number 6154 which will be designated Senate Amendment Schedule A..

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, LCO number 6154 designated Senate Amendment A and offered by Senator Crisco et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there any objection to summarization? Is there any objection? Hearing none, Representative Abercrombie, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the amendment makes the underlying bill a better bill by making tighter the regs around it. The underlying bill specifies that individuals with autism spectrum

disorder that were diagnosed under the DSM four will continue to receive insurance coverage for covered services that we approved back in 2008.

You know when the new definition was coming out there was a lot of anxiety and frustration with the families that are on the spectrum and what is the bill does is, I'd like to call it the safety net. It makes sure that these families that are already receiving these services continue to receive these services.

And I would like to just take this opportunity to thank Chairman Megna and Chairman Crisco for their hard work on this bill and their continued support. And someone else in this Chamber who's been a huge, huge advocate on this issue and someone that I rely on a lot around this issue and that's my colleague, Representative Hwang, who you know year in and year out helps me on these issues.

And to my Chamber members. You know we've done a lot of great things through the years around autism, something that we should all be proud about. And this just continues down that path. I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of Senate Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the

amendment? Representative Wood of the 141st.

REP. WOOD (141st):

I would like to defer to Representative Hwang.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Hwang of the 131st.

REP. HWANG (131st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to rise in support of this amendment. I would like to take a few moments to thank the fantastic work that the good Representative from the 83rd District has put into this not only this year but since the origination of this coverage for autism in 2008. And -- and her work has been peerless and I want to thank her.

At the same time I want to thank the good colleagues in this Chamber as well as take a moment to recognize the input of the Ranking Member of Insurance and Real Estate, Representative Sampson. And I also want to thank the good work of my good colleague, Representative Kokoruda who's done some good work in this as well.

But most important of all I want to thank the parents -- the parents and the advocates for autism who have given so much. They are truly the people that we want to give thanks to and recognize that for

all that they do they do it for their children. They do it for the people that are impacted by autism. So

I would ask that we fully support this and recognize that this is simply a continuation of a bill that was passed in 2008 and we are ensuring that regardless of whatever happens with the diagnostic interpretations or the affordable care act that we continue to be responsible and maintain our -- our commitment to those families and children and those unborn children that will be impacted by autism.

This is something that I'm very proud to be a part of and I'm even prouder to be part of a team that is committed nonstop to making sure that we cure this disease. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Kokoruda of the 101st.

REP. KOKORUDA (101st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand in support of this amendment. I also stand to thank the Co-chairs of the Insurance Committee and Representative Hwang and especially Representative Abercrombie for her leadership on this issue. This bill simply -- this amendment simply ensures that all of our children who

are receiving services now do not lose them. And any change in the definition could have a -- a wide range impact on our kids and it's a concern in the autism community.

Autism Speaks which is one of the -- the most well-known autism organizations and has done so much has started -- has decided to do a national survey of families and professionals to see just how DSM five is going to impact these families. So I think this bill is so important because we don't have that information yet.

And finally it is a concern of the autism community and I'm one of them, that redefining autism it's a red flag for those of us who know people are concerned about the skyrocketing number of people diagnosed under the spectrum but redefining autism spectrum disorders certainly isn't what we're looking for.

So again thank you for your leadership, Representative Abercrombie. Thank you. I -- I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Thank you very much, Representative.



Representative Wood of the 141st.

REP. WOOD (141st):

Thank you, Madam Chair -- Madam Speaker. I also stand in support of this bill. I think so many of us are here to help others and this is a perfect example of a safety net that we can prevent and help for those who really need this. So I hope you all will join us in supporting this. Thank you, Madam Chair -- Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Ziobron of the 34th.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And -- and I also rise in support of the amendment but I do -- I mean the -- yes, the amendment but I do have a question to the proponent. In my community, Madam Speaker, we have a world renowned school called Franklin Academy. And Franklin Academy in East Haddam is a boarding and day school for students with nonverbal learning differences and specifically Asperger's syndrome.

I also have a godson with Asperger's syndrome and we I think unfortunately may know somebody who is afflicted with some spectrum disorder of autism. And my question to the proponent, through you, Madam

Speaker, is is the redefinition -- I really don't know, does that take out the Asperger's or how -- how is that redefinition going to affect a wonderful community school like Franklin Academy in my district? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That's an excellent question. I think a lot of the anxiety throughout the autism community was around that specific diagnosis, what was going to happen to our Asperger kids which are the high functioning ones.

From everything I've read and I'm not an expert but I do do a lot of reading on it, the Asperger kids are going to be protected under the new definition. With that said, from what I have read is that the kids that are on the more severe part, the lower part of the spectrum will be affected which is even scarier because these are the kids that we know if they get the early intervention can succeed successfully through life.

Without that interventions there's a lot more challenges for them. We are still waiting for the

guidelines even though the definition did come out last weekend. The guidelines my understanding will not be out before October which is really scary because it still gives these families a lot of anxiety. So that's why I think this legislation is so important to be the safety net for these families But good question, Representative.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Ziobron of the 34th.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And -- and I just want to thank the Gentlelady for that answer. You know it's -- it's -- when we see those kinds of changes that affect these kids who are so special and yet like you say so brilliant on that level and I've had the opportunity to spend some time at Franklin Academy with some of those children and they do amazing things there.

And like I said I'm proud to stand up and support this amendment. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I thank the Ranking Members and the good Chair for all of her work.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Will you remark? Will you remark further on the

amendment that is before us? If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House. Will members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber please. The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Please check the board to see if your vote has been properly cast. If all the members have voted then the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, in concurrence with the Senate,  
Senate Bill number 1029 as amended by Senate Amendment  
A.

Total Number Voting	138
Necessary for Adoption	70
Those voting aye	138
Those voting nay	0
Absent and not voting	12

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

The bill as amended passes in concurrence with  
the Senate. Will the Clerk please call Calendar  
number 6 -- oops, 619.

THE CLERK:

Madam Speaker, on page 35 of the Calendar,  
Calendar number 619, favorable report of the joint  
standing Committee on Judiciary, substitute Senate  
Bill number 984, AN ACT CONCERNING PROBATE COURT  
OPERATIONS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER SAYERS:

Representative Fox.

REP. FOX (146th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move for the  
acceptance of the -- I move acceptance of the -- I  
move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable

**STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**INSURANCE AND  
REAL ESTATE  
PART 4  
925 - 1225**

**2013**



TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
MARCH 7, 2013

My name is Jennifer Herz and I am Assistant Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people

CBIA encourages you to closely review HB 1029 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Seek Guidance from HHS**

As you know, new mandates will directly impact both the state budget as well as the budgets of small businesses. It is unclear whether the modification contained in this bill will be considered a new mandate under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

This is an extremely important distinction since new mandates will affect the state budget because of the ACA and the state exchange's Essential Health Benefit (EHB) package. And, as explained below, new mandates also add to the already high cost of insurance for small businesses.

Therefore, it is imperative that the Committee receive guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services as to the status of this modification pursuant to the ACA prior to adoption

**New Mandates Require State Dollars**

New mandates will be a direct cost to the state, as explained below.

The state exchange adopted its EHB package, which includes all of the state's existing health benefit mandates. However, new mandates, which may include HB 1029, will be a direct cost to the state. Here are two important points to consider:

(i) Essential Health Benefit package Already Adopted: New benefit mandates will not be included in the existing EHB package since it has already been voted on and adopted by the state exchange board of directors and cannot be modified until 2016, at the earliest; and

(ii) New Mandates Are A Direct Cost to Connecticut: Federal dollars will be utilized to cover the existing EHB package for the subsidized population receiving coverage through the state exchange. However, Connecticut will be required to subsidize any new benefit mandates, such as these, that are not included in the existing EHB package

**Mandates Are Costly for Small Business**

The impact of new benefit mandates faced by the state is similar to that of a small business in Connecticut – they are simply unaffordable. Connecticut small businesses continue to struggle with the rising cost of health insurance and further mandates will exacerbate the existing problem.

Each new mandate adds to the cost of insurance coverage and therefore drives up premiums. And, especially when considered in the aggregate, mandates add significant cost to healthcare in Connecticut.

A University of Connecticut, Center for Public Health and Health Policy report titled: Connecticut Mandated Health Insurance Benefit Review, dated January 2011, available at: [http://www.ct.gov/cid/lib/cid/2010\\_CT\\_Mandated\\_Health\\_Insurance\\_Benefits\\_Reviews\\_-\\_General\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/cid/lib/cid/2010_CT_Mandated_Health_Insurance_Benefits_Reviews_-_General_Overview.pdf) (UConn Study), provides some figures on the impact of benefit mandates. The study reports that state benefit mandates comprised "roughly 22% of the 2010 medical cost of health insurance in CT for the average person covered by a group plan" (See page 11 and 28). And, while the UConn Study also points out the percentage is likely an overstated figure it nevertheless keenly demonstrates the costly impact of mandated benefits.

Although mandates provide a benefit to a defined group the consequence of restricting choice to the greater public is significant. Choice is essential in the marketplace. Allowing employers and employees to choose insurance plans they can afford is paramount to expanding mandated benefits.

It is also important to remember these mandates only apply to state regulated health insurance plans and do not effect the large companies that have the ability to self insure – this is effecting the small business person.

In closing, I want to emphasize (i) affordability is central to expanding access and (ii) new health benefit mandates will be a direct cost to Connecticut's general fund. Further, it is not clear whether HB 1029 will be considered a new mandate under the ACA and federal guidance is needed before proceeding with this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments.





*Quality is Our Bottom Line*

**Insurance and Real Estate Committee Public Hearing**

**Thursday, March 7, 2013**

**Connecticut Association of Health Plans**

**Testimony Regarding**

**S.B. No. 1029 AAC HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**H.B. No. 6546 AAC OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES**

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans opposes SB 1029 which ties the autism insurance mandate to the "fourth" as opposed to the "most recent" American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

According to Autism Watch at [www.autism-watch.org/general/dsm.shtml](http://www.autism-watch.org/general/dsm.shtml) "The American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* is the main diagnostic reference used by mental health professionals and insurance providers in the United States. The fourth edition, which was published in 1994, is commonly referred to as the "DSM-IV." The diagnosis of autism requires that at least six developmental and behavioral characteristics are apparent, that problems are evident before age three, and that there is no evidence for certain other conditions that are similar "

Requiring in statute that an insurance mandate be tied to professional criteria developed in 1994 is ill advised and imprudent. Criteria are updated in order to reflect the latest clinical research and treatment modalities and the legislature should not seek to override the protocols established by professional societies who have the knowledge and expertise to provide guidance on these matters.

With respect to HB 6546, health plan co-pays are subject to review by the Department of Insurance in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. With affordability of health care coverage paramount in the minds of employers, individuals, and frankly the state's Exchange, mandates that prohibit flexibility in benefit design are detrimental to the implementation of health care reform. We urge your opposition.

Many thanks for your consideration.

**S - 656**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL. 56  
PART 5  
1213 - 1511**

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

72  
May 8, 2013

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Doyle.

SENATOR DOYLE:

Through -- thank you, Madam President.

If there's no objection, I would refer this bill to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 6, Calendar 188, Senate Bill Number 1029, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS, Favorable Report of the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Madam President

Madam President, I move acceptance of the joint committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR CRISCO:

Yes, Madam President.

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

73  
May 8, 2013

The Clerk has an amendment, LCO 6154. I request that it be called and I be given permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk; 61 -- LCO Number 61 --

SENATOR CRISCO:

6154.

THE CHAIR:

-- 54 -- 54.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 6154, Senator "A," offered by Senator Crisco, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I move adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on adoption. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, members of the Circle, this is a strike-all amendment. Just to remind the Circle that Connecticut has been a leader in the care for children on the autism spectrum. Initially, several years ago, we passed legislation that allowed -- well, that required insurance companies to provide for medical coverage. And then a year or two after that, we also adopted legislation that provided for social behavior. That piece of legislation saved millions of dollars in

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

74  
May 8, 2013

Birth-to-Three programs but also allowed a child to be mainstream in the school system.

Madam President, and members of the Circle, all of us have known families that just do a miraculous job in taking care of their autistic children that is such a elevating, you know, effect upon their lives. What we are doing here in this strike-all is that because there are constant changes on the federal level from what Manual IV to Manual V, we're making sure that the children that are covered presently on autism will also be covered under the next, the fifth manual and on from there.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you, Madam President.

I have a couple of questions, through you, to the proponent of the bill for the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you, Madam President.

With regards to the changes that are occurring at the federal level, you indicated that this was -- well, let me back up. Isn't it the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" that governs this area?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

75  
May 8, 2013

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Yes, madam, through you to Senator Kelly, yes; that is correct.

SENATOR KELLY:

And, if I understand the --

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

SENATOR KELLY:

-- the amendment, what the amendment does is in the release of the new edition of what I'm going to call the -- the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders -- the DSM manual -- in the DSM manual, that in moving from IV to V, we're going to continue to cover those that are already covered under IV, but they're going to remain covered under V.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, to the good Senator, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY:

With regards to this strike-all, is there any other difference between this and the original bill that came through the Insurance Committee?

THE CHAIR:

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

76  
May 8, 2013

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, no.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And thank you, Senator Crisco.

At the committee level, I did vote against this bill, and the reason for that was primarily that we were just going to hold back the entire area with regards to the DSM manual and only cover individuals under the 4th edition, even though the field would be moving to the fifth. I think this amendment cures that issue in that we're not leaving anybody behind, but yet we're going to allow the autism field to stay up with current developments in the DSM manual.

And I would urge adoption of the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further on this, on the amendment?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

While I respect the explanation by both the Chair and the Ranking Member, I'm still a little confused as to what this amendment would lead, going forward; so, if I could, a couple of questions, through you.

THE CHAIR:

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

77  
May 8, 2013

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Senator Crisco, as I understand the underlying bill, the underlying bill would have used, when it comes out, DSM-V as the arbiter of what would be covered for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, specifically. Is that correct?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, to the distinguished leader, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

And thank you, Madam President.

And -- and, specifically, it's my understanding that people with Asperger's who may be covered under DSM-IV, it -- it may be anticipated would not be covered under DSM-V. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, yes.



mhr/gbr  
SENATE

78  
May 8, 2013

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And so then, through you, Madam President, what this amendment would say is regardless of what is said in DSM-V, people diagnosed with Asperger's under DSM-IV will continue to be covered. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, to the good leader, yes.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And, Madam President, through you to Senator Crisco.

Senator Crisco, does that, is that limited to, I guess grandfathering those people who exist now or is that in perpetuity, pending some future change by the Legislature; so someone who is born five years from now, diagnosed with Asperger's, would still be covered?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, to the good Senator.

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

79  
May 8, 2013

According to our information, strides are being made in medical care. It is the opinion that Asperger will not exist in the future, so that won't be necessary.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And is that -- through you, Madam President -- is that, is that because we're going to follow the DSM-V going forward but only grandfathering people currently diagnosed with Asperger's?

Through you.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you to the Senator, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

So then, through you, Madam President, someone who is currently diagnosed with Asperger's, pursuant to DSM-IV today and someone who would be -- would not be diagnosed with Asperger's -- well, let me strike that, Madam President.

Senator Crisco, through you, Madam President, is it, is it my understanding that someone who is diagnosed with Asperger's, pursuant to DSM-IV today, that same person may not be diagnosed with Asperger's under DSM-V?

Through you, Madam President.

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

80  
May 8, 2013

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you to the Senator, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

So then what we are, what we are saying is that coverage will be limited in the future, but for those who've been covered now, they'll continue to be covered?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you, yes.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

So here's my, here's my conflict, then, Madam President -- through you, to Senator Crisco -- that the amendment covers people who would lose coverage under the DSM-V manual, and I understand the importance of doing that. I guess the question is: Where -- where's the fairness argument of person A, who's diagnosed with Asperger's and covered under DSM-IV, versus person B, who is the same person but because we've evolved in our understanding and treatment of Asperger's, that in DSM-V, they wouldn't

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

81  
May 8, 2013

be diagnosed as having Asperger's and therefore covered?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator -- Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you to the Senator.

The clarification is basically in the future Asperger would not be segregated as a special illness; it will all be considered under autism.

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Okay. Thank you, Madam President.

I thank the Senator for answering my questions on the amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark?

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

Just one question, from a -- through you to --

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS:

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

82  
May 8, 2013

-- Senator Crisco.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Is -- is this because of a change in federal guidelines with the change in, I guess, editions from DSM-IV to DSM-V?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, through you to the good Senator.

Yes, and this, you know, avoids the problem of going from IV to V to VI, where we have to keep changing, you know, our legislation; this will take care of those who are presently covered and those in the future, because the definition will all be under autism.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Witkos.

SENATOR WITKOS:

Thank you, Madam President.

I thank Senator Crisco for that answer.

You know, I was a member, as a House member on the Insurance and Real Estate Committee when we first started talking about autism, here in State of Connecticut. And we were pioneers by moving slowly, because we didn't understand what autism was. And it took us several sessions to get where we are today.

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

83  
May 8, 2013

And it's the, those family members and those folks that are suffering from the entire autism spectrum that are dealing with this every day, and because of somebody in Washington is changing definitions, I'm glad we're here protecting the folks that are currently receiving the services, because to wake up tomorrow to find that, well, we were covered once before but somebody in Washington decided that you don't need the coverage any longer, that's very harming for the families. And we've made such great strides in -- in treatment and therapy for folks along the entire spectrum. I hate to -- to lose any part of that.

So I -- I stand in strong support of the amendment and ultimately the bill.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further?

Senator Welch.

SENATOR WELCH:

Thank you, Madam President.

While I support the amendment, I can't help but seeing us having to deal with this situation a year from now, two years from now, whenever VI comes out, whenever VII comes out. And -- and I wonder, out loud I guess, if it would not be prudent to have the amendment as it is but at some point change the fifth edition to the most recent edition, assuming that would accomplish everything we're seeking to accomplish here and then also prevent us from coming back in the future. But, again, those are just thoughts I wonder out loud.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

84  
May 8, 2013

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, if I'm correct, I believe that the legislation as in strike-all refers to the most recent, so if V, VI, VII, VIII do exist, then it is the most recent, and so it's covered under our legislation.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

In not, we are asking on the amendment, so I need a voice vote on the amendment. All in favor of the amendment, please say Aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed?

The amendment passes.

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I -- I want to express my appreciate to Senator Kelly and Senator Witkos on their support and assistance in this unbelievable, you know, illness that these parents are so wonderful in addressing, and also to Representative Abercrombie, for her leadership in the House.

Recently, we did have an Autism Day at the Capitol, and to see those families who give so much, as they should, but who give so much, ultimately, to care,

mhr/gbr  
SENATE

85  
May 8, 2013

take care of those children on the spectrum, it really is heartwarming. I just want to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Circle for their leadership and their support, over the years, in addressing this issue.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And before I ask my last question, I do also want to thank Senator Crisco and Senator Kelly for their work on this, also Representative Abercrombie, as well, in her long-standing work on behalf of people with autism.

Madam President, I do have one last question, though, through you to Senator Crisco.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Or at least one line of question.

Through you, Madam President, Senator Crisco, as -- as you know as well as anyone that with the passage of the Affordable Care Act, that after 2011, new mandates are the responsibility of the state to pay for it and are not part of the Essential Benefits Package.

And, through you, Madam President, am I correct in believing that even if -- and we don't know yet -- but even if the DSM-V manual came out and did not have this, the Asperger's diagnosis, that the fact that we are continuing to cover people who are covered under DSM-IV, which was in place prior to 2011, that this would not be -- that this would be part of the



mhr/gbr  
SENATE

86  
May 8, 2013

Essential Benefits Package and not seen as a new  
mandate under the Affordable Care Act?

Through you, Madam President.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President --

THE CHAIR:

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

-- through you, to the good Senator, it is my opinion  
it's not.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

Thank you --

THE CHAIR:

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY:

-- Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Crisco.

SENATOR CRISCO:

Madam President, if there's no objection, I place it  
on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

Senator Looney.

ed/cd/gbr  
SENATE

209  
May 8, 2013

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Calendar page 48, Calendar 309, Senate Bill Number 899, Madam President, move to place this item on the foot of the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And Madam President, on Calendar page 50, Calendar 405, Senate Bill Number 848, Madam President, move to refer this item to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, if the Clerk would now read the items on the first Consent Calendar and then if we might proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On page 1, Calendar 496, House Joint Resolution Number 98; Calendar 497, House Joint Resolution Number 99.

On page 2, Calendar 498, House Joint Resolution Number 100; Calendar 499, House Joint Resolution Number 101;

ed/cd/gbr  
SENATE

210  
May 8, 2013

also on page 2, Calendar 500, House Joint Resolution  
Number 102.

On page 4, Calendar 119, Senate Bill 564.

On page 5, Calendar 155, Senate Bill 231.

On page 6, Calendar 169, Senate Bill 881; and Calendar  
188, Senate Bill 1029.

On page 7, Calendar 192, Senate Bill 835.

On page 12, Calendar 284, Senate Bill 964.

Page 16, Calendar 353, House Bill 6481.

On page 18, Calendar 376, Senate Bill 878; Calendar  
372, Senate Bill 977.

On page 19, Calendar 387, Senate Bill 386; and  
Calendar 392, Senate Bill 366.

On page 20, Calendar 396, Senate Bill 991; and  
Calendar 413, Senate Bill 1049.

On page 21, Calendar for 424, House Bill 6212.

And on page 25, Calendar 463, House Bill 6405.

THE CHAIR:

Those are all the bills on the Calendar.

At this point, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll  
call vote of the first Consent Calendar of the day and  
the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

~~Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.~~  
Voting the first Consent Calendar of the day.  
Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Senators please return to the chamber.

(Senator Coleman of the 2nd in the Chair.)

THE CHAIR:

ed/cd/gbr  
SENATE

211  
May 8, 2013

Would members please check the board to see that your vote has been properly recorded? If all members have voted and all votes have been properly recorded, the machine will be closed.

And would the Clerk please take and announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar of the day.

Total Number Voting	36
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar has passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

If we might stand at ease for -- for just a moment.  
Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

The Chamber please stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

SENATOR LOONEY:

Mr. President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: