

**Telehealth
Bill No. LCO No. 3614
Testimony Submitted to the General Assembly
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Town: Manchester, Connecticut

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee: My name is Christine Rosales, and I am a Behavioral Health Clinician at Generations Family Health Center's Willimantic site. Generations is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavioral health and support services in eastern Connecticut.

I have an adult client who has been dedicated to his mental health and therapy for almost two years. He has had many medical complications resulting in frequent hospitalizations and surgeries over the last year, and when he needs those intense medical treatments is also when he struggles more with his mental health. With the availability of telehealth services, his therapy has been consistent when he needs it the most, both when hospitalized pre- or post- operation and when at home unable to leave due to the potential for contracting COVID with his weakened immune system. This client has not missed a single appointment through the use of telehealth technology and has continued to work on his mental health and stability without interruption. He has voiced on multiple occasions that telehealth services are a blessing to his current situation, and he hopes they will continue to be available in the future.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Clinicians like me have had tremendous success with telehealth. We need to make access to this kind of behavioral health care permanent so that we can provide behavioral health care services to everyone who needs them whether they can transport to our facility or not.