

TO: Senate Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: Commissioners of the Department of Mental Health and Department for Children and Families

RE: H. 230

DATE: April 18, 2017

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department for Children and Families (DCF) support access to mental health treatment for minors. Providing treatment to minors without their parents' consent presents statutory and policy implications that require time for analysis and stakeholder input. We are committed to convening a multi-disciplinary stakeholder group to reach thoughtful recommendations to assure access to mental health treatment.

Therefore, we ask the committee to consider the following: Do a strike-all of the existing language in H.230 and replace it with, ***'the commissioners of the Departments of Mental Health and Children and Families will jointly propose language that addresses access of minors to mental health treatment to the Senate Health & Welfare Committee on or before January 15th, 2018'***.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important topic.