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LATE

February 22, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 203 - RELATING TO STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH**

Hearing: February 22, 2017, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent and offers comments. DHS defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding administrative and operational issues.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to amend the membership of the State Council on Mental Health, defines quorum for the Council, and specifies number of votes required to constitute valid acts of the Council; designates the State Council on Mental Health within the department of health for administrative purposes.

Although not previously a named member of the council, DHS is working with the DOH and community advocates to explore ways that the state may better utilize Medicaid services to support mental health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.