



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Human Services Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Thursday, February 22, 2007

RANKING MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Harris, Senator Kissel, Senator Coleman, Representative Villano, Representative Gibbons, Representative Abercrombie and Human Services Committee Membership:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on House Bill 5485, *AN ACT CONCERNING HUSKY COVERAGE FOR VACCINATION AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER*. This legislation is designed to ensure that women on the Husky Plan have access to a vaccine that can protect them from a devastating form of cancer.

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women. In the United States, the American Cancer Society estimates that in 2006, 9,710 women will be diagnosed with and more than 3,700 women will die of cervical cancer. Recent advances in medical experts' understanding of cervical cancer and the virus that causes it, HPV, as well as the availability of new preventative technologies, make its elimination possible. This is an opportunity we cannot waste.

HPV is a virus transmitted through sexual contact. People who abstain from sex or use protection probably won't get it. We would all like to think that by educating our children about the dangers of HPV or other STDs they won't contract them. Well, how often do our kids always listen to us? How long has sex education been a part of the public school curriculum and how many people still contract a STD? Even the most cautious in our communities are not immune to the threats of an STD; I would point out that rape and child molestation victims do not have the luxury to choose who they have sex with. Since men can carry the HPV virus and not know it, it is important that we take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and our children. I believe that the State needs to be a leader in promoting this kind of protection and offer coverage of the HPV Vaccine under the Husky Plan.

I thank the Committee for raising this important bill and ask that it please be given a favorable report.