

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 7233**  
***AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH***  
***SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS***

March 8, 2007

To Members of the Human Services Committee:

**We write in support of Raised Bill No. 7233, An Act Concerning Health Care Access for Children with Special Health Care Needs.** As with many other Connecticut families, we have a grandson in need of medical care stemming from a birth defect. Ryan Leopold, age eight, resides with his parents and brother in West Hartford, and attends a local public school. Currently treatment is limited to the home, and Ryan, as well as all others in the same situation, have a great need to be able to obtain therapeutic services at other locations outside of the home.

By the time these children return home from school, or from after school programs or day care when parents are working, it is late. These youngsters are not as receptive to their needed care, and it is simply "too late in the day" while interfering with family dinners and their other needs. Being able to provide therapy in a child's other-than-home location alleviates this problem, making their care more beneficial while relieving stress for all concerned.

The Medicaid bill that has already been passed, which is now codified as Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-261g, only applied to children insured under the Husky Plan A, but no other child insured with Medicaid (e.g. Katie Beckett waiver children), thereby eliminating all other special need children. It is our hope that this bill, H.B. 7233 will pass so that ALL children with special needs will be covered by their health insurance for these very important therapeutic services.

Please feel free to contact us (203-226-4389) if we can provide any additional information. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit this written testimony and we hope that you will support this bill so that all children insured under the Medicaid plan will benefit from medically necessary services.

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