

Randi and Bryan Leopold
54 Bainton Rd.
West Hartford, Ct. 06117
(860) 233-7779

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 7233:
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

March 6, 2007

Thank you for providing us the time to submit this written testimony in support of Raised Bill 7233.

Our names are Randi and Bryan Leopold and we live at 54 Bainton Rd. in West Hartford.

Our son Ryan has Cerebral Palsy and is developmentally delayed. He receives Physical, Occupational, and Speech therapy through a home health care agency.

Due to laws that were written many years ago, these services were only allowed to be done in the home and not in after school programs.

Last year, we submitted written testimony, as well as spoke in front of the Human Services Committee in favor of what was at that time Senate Bill 480. We requested that the law be changed to let these services take place at an after school program or day care center as well as in the home so that these children with disabilities could receive their therapies at a time when it would be most beneficial to them.

We are happy to say that the law was passed but we are also saddened that at the last minute, a change was made to include children that fall under the "Husky Plan Part A" program but not children that are covered under the Medicaid waiver (Katie Beckett waiver).

Because of this last minute change, our son Ryan, as well as many other disabled children in the State, cannot receive their therapies at an appropriate time of day when it would be most beneficial.

To this day, we still cannot understand why at some time in the early morning hours of the last day of the legislative session, the word "Medicaid" was changed to the words "Husky Plan Part A", thus leaving out many children whom this bill was initially written to help.

We are asking that the wording of the existing law be changed to exclude the words "Husky Plan, Part A" and in its place, add the word "Medicaid".

By doing this, you will be enabling all children like Ryan, the opportunity to receive their therapies at a time of day when they will be able to get the most out of these services, thus giving them the best opportunity for growth.

Sincerely,

Randi and Bryan Leopold