

# **MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## **Statement in Support of**

### **Senate Bill 203 - An Act Concerning Full Payment to Medical Assistance Providers for Services Provided to Dually Eligible Patients**

#### **Human Services Committee**

**February 6, 2007**

The 150 members of the Middlesex County Medical Association submit this statement in support of Senate Bill 203 - An Act Concerning Full Payment to Medical Assistance Providers for Services Provided to Dually Eligible Patients. We respectfully urge members of committees to join us in supporting this bill.

As physicians, we are committed to providing the best possible healthcare for our patients, however with recent cuts to health care services, this has become next to impossible. In 1999, when the State of Connecticut decided to implement a provision of the 1997 Federal Balanced Budget Act which allows states to eliminate the Medicaid payment of Medicare Part B crossover claims, the State reduced a physician's ability to assume new dually eligible patients.

While the State's elimination of the crossover payments will hurt physicians, it will hurt patients even more. Patients will have trouble finding physicians who are

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willing to accept new patients. Over the past few years as the health care industry has changed, physicians have been required to change with it. Physicians have added more staff to their offices to handle formulary issues, payment issues, referrals, authorizations or treatment, etc. These changes have meant increased overhead expenses. Physicians simply cannot meet these overhead expenses when their payments are drastically cut. Unlike hospitals and nursing homes, physicians have not had a Medicaid rate increase in over ten years. We have managed to still care for dually eligible patients, but we simply cannot do it anymore. We fear for the health care of Connecticut's sickest patients and know that the cut will impact them more than it will impact us. We hope that you will help us to help them and respectfully urge that you restore Medicaid crossover funding.

**For more information, please call:**

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