

TOLLAND 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 Tolland County Medical Association submits this statement on behalf of its physicians and their patients. We urge this committee to support Senate Bill 203 - An Act Concerning Full Payment to Medical Assistance Providers for Services Provided to Dually Eligible Patients

As members of this committee are well aware, in 1999 the State of Connecticut cut Medicaid funding to health care services. About \$14 million of this cut was absorbed by physicians through the elimination of Medicaid payments of Medicare Part B Crossover claims. By receiving only 80% of an already low payment, physicians are being forced to turn away new dually eligible patients. Unfortunately, they are the elderly nursing home residents, elderly Medicaid patients in need of specialists, mentally and physically handicapped patients, and dialysis and cancer patients. For these patients, access to health care is becoming an increasing problem.

As physicians, we are committed to doing our part in helping dually eligible patients, however the financial reality of the situation is making this impossible. The

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health care industry has changed a great deal in the past 15 years. Physicians have been required to make changes to the way they practice medicine and to the way they run their offices. New procedures from HMOs have forced us to hire more staff and spend more time on administrative issues, rising medical malpractice premiums are forcing physicians to consider whether or not they can continue practicing medicine, and cuts to funding for the dually eligible are keeping us from being able to treat the most neediest patients.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 203.

For more information, please call:

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