



Connecticut Health Advocacy Forum
 C/O Arthritis Foundation Northern & Southern New England
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TESTIMONY

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PROPOSED BILL 656
 An Act Raising Awareness About
 Health Organization and Advocacy Groups**

- ALS Association
- Alzheimer’s Association, CT Chapter
- American Cancer Society, NE Division
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart Association
- American Liver Foundation
- American Lung Association of Connecticut
- Arthritis Foundation,
Northern & Southern New England Chapter
- Brain Injury Association of Connecticut
- CT Aids Residence Coalition
- CT CFIDS and FM Association
- CT Hospital Association
- CT State Medical Society
- Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
- Easter Seals CT-RI
- Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America
- March of Dimes – CT Chapter
- MATCH Coalition
- Mental Health Association of CT
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- National Alliance of State Prostate
Cancer Coalitions
- National Kidney Foundation of CT
- National Multiple Sclerosis of Greater CT
- New England Cancer Pain Initiative
- Prevent Blindness Tri-State
- Prudence Crandall Center
- Research for Ovarian Cancer & Continued
Survival
- United Cerebral Palsy Association

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Susan Nesci and I currently serve as co-chair of the Connecticut Health Advocacy Forum. The Forum is a coalition of 28 Connecticut voluntary and other health agencies that promote public policy and strategies that increase access to health care and medications. We are especially concerned about helping those we serve with chronic diseases or disabilities access the services they need.

The Forum was originally formed in the last 1990s to advocate for expansion of income limits under ConnPACE. We testified last year in support of state wrap-around provisions for ConnPACE and dual eligibles and thank the Public Health Committee for its support. These provisions have helped gain access to medications for many of those we serve.

We also are actively involved in helping the Department of Social Services Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee recruit medical specialist from our agencies to help the committee with decisions on what medications to include on the state’s formulary for fee-for-service Medicaid.

Senator Slossberg and Representative Sayers have both spoken about the Public Health Committee’s priorities at our meetings. Senator Slossberg proposed this bill to increase awareness of the services our agencies offer because we a valuable asset to state residents.

We represent both large voluntary health agencies, such as the American Lung Association, and smaller groups, such as the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. Many of the smaller groups do not have the support of large national offices to help promote awareness of their services.

Members of our Forum have suggested that perhaps we could work with the Department of Public Health to list on their website our member agencies as well as insure that all our agencies are listed under United Way’s 211 information service. We would also appreciate working with the department on other outreach efforts.

Thank you for your consideration and the support you have given to improving public health in our state.

Susan Nesci, Cochair