



OFFICE OF THE
HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Kevin Lembo, State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Human Services Committee, Connecticut General Assembly
In Support of H.B. 7233
March 8, 2007**

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Villano, Senator Kissel, Representative Gibbons, and members of the Human Services Committee. For the record, I am Kevin Lembo and I am the State Healthcare Advocate. I apologize that I can't be with you today, but I am submitting this testimony in support of **H.B. 7233, *AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.***

This simple but critical change to the Medicaid statutes will ensure that all children enrolled in Medicaid, especially children with complex medical and behavioral health needs, are able to access needed home health services in home-like settings such as day care facilities and after school programs. As you know, most children who have complex medical or behavioral health needs are not enrolled in Medicaid managed care, but instead participate in the Medicaid fee-for-service program. We are pleased that this revision of the statutes will finally allow these children the ability to participate fully in activities with their non-disabled peers by ensuring that needed home health services are available. The statutory revision will remedy another of the very real barriers that families face, the inability to engage fully in life activities because of the fear of their children going without critical services when they are in after-school care or other home-like settings.

I urge your support and ultimate adoption of H.B. 7233. Thank you.