

**Testimony of Patrick Alvino, M.D.
Before the Human Services Committee**

March 15, 2007

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

I would like to testify today in support of Bills 7322 and 1425.

I am a pediatrician in a large practice with offices in Branford and Clinton, CT. We care for roughly 10,000 children. About 25-30% of our patients are enrolled in the Husky program through the various managed care companies used by the state.

I believe that I am speaking for all eleven of the providers in our practice when I say that the HMO's are failing these children. It is a nightmare to get children who have Husky insurance to see certain specialists, especially orthopedics, ENT, and mental health professionals. The drug formularies used by the managed care companies are restrictive and difficult to navigate. Our bookkeeping staff informs us regularly of the difficulties in getting our claims paid by the managed care companies. We are under financial pressure to drop some or all of these plans. Alternatively, our bookkeeping staff report that claim submission and reimbursement for our few patients that are on straight medicaid (non-HMO) is far easier.

I believe the state should implement a pilot program of Primary Case Care Management. Pediatricians are willing to act as the coordinators of care for Husky clients as long as there is reasonable compensation. As we have seen, the HMO's do little in the way of coordination of care in any case and we must already work harder to obtain necessary care for these patients.

Thank you in your efforts to help increase access to medical care to all the children of Connecticut.

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