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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 7233
AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR CHILDREN'S WITH
SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

March 8, 2007

To Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am writing in support of Raised Bill 7233, specifically Section 1, subsection (d), to amend Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-261g to provide insurance coverage for home healthcare services, including speech and language services, to all children insured under the state's Medicaid plan, not just the children enrolled in the HUSKY Plan, Part A. I am a licensed speech language pathologist who provides services to a variety of children. With the current economic situation there are many households where both parents are working and children spend a significant amount of time in another setting. Providing services in these settings would be beneficial in a couple of ways. First, it would allow the therapist to directly discuss and demonstrate strategies with the care provider, which in turn would benefit the child. Secondly, when children participate in after school or daycare programs they typically arrive home during the evening hours. Therapy at this time is less efficient as the child has had a long day and it is more difficult for them to focus.

Daycare and after school settings are typical environments for many children these days. The provision of therapy in these settings would benefit the child. I strongly support the expansion of coverage for these services to the state's most severely disabled children who are insured under the state's Medicaid program, by the passage of Raised Bill 7233.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important matter.

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