



**Connecticut Academy
of Family Physicians**

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

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the 700 members of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians in support of Senate Bill 203.

As physicians, we are very lucky to be able to organize as a group and come before the legislature to voice our concerns. However, there are groups that are not as fortunate. One of these groups are the dually eligible Medicaid/Medicare patients and it is on behalf of those patients that we urge this committee to restore Medicaid funding. People who are dually eligible are the sickest of patients. They are elderly and poor. They are people in need of special treatments and services. These patients require special nursing home services, have serious mental and physical handicaps, are in need of renal dialysis, and have other severe illnesses. Unfortunately, because of the cuts to Medicaid/Medicare, these patients will have difficulty securing the treatment that they need.

Because of cuts to Medicaid/Medicare, physicians will be unable to continue accepting new dually eligible patients. This is especially true for the family physician

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who treats many nursing home residents. Treating nursing home residents is time and resource consuming, yet family physicians do it anyway, because it is with these patients that we have developed long-term relationships and because we are committed to providing them with the best possible care. However, changes in the health care system have required us to see more patients in a day, hire more staff to handle billing issues, and in short change the way we manage our practices. These changes, in addition to a medical malpractice crisis, have increased overhead costs and made it almost impossible for us to leave our practices and visit nursing homes to treat patients. Yet, we have continued to do it. However, it has been difficult and we wonder how long we will be able to continue doing so.

We understand that every year the legislature is faced with numerous budgetary decisions. We hope that this year when you are considering the many bills before you, you will support Senate Bill 203. It is the patients of Connecticut who will benefit.

**For more information, please call:
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