

# Waterbury Medical Association

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## 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

The Waterbury Medical Association (WMA) respectfully urges this Committee to support Senate Bill 203. WMA has a membership of nearly 300 physicians representing all specialties and subspecialties. We share the common goal of furthering health care and the practice of medicine in the Greater Waterbury community. Given the current financial circumstances of the health care system, Senate Bill 203 is extremely important to guarantee access to care.

With the fact that Medicaid reimbursement for CT physicians has not increased in over 10 years, physicians are presently losing money with each Medicaid patient and no longer have the types of practices to absorb that loss. Loss of appropriate medical services and supplies becomes the bigger issue in many situations. Dr. Joseph Renda, one of the nephrologists in Waterbury, takes care of a chronically sick, older population, and has seen a dramatic drop in reimbursement for his practice as well as a large cost transfer to the patient regarding supplies, out patient services and transportation.

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Recently, his office began getting calls because one of the larger internal medicine practices in Waterbury will no longer be accepting Medicaid and the “crossover” patients that they’ve been seeing will now need to go elsewhere as of today. Where is elsewhere?

Physicians all over the state have constantly been changing the way they practice medicine and run their offices. Managed care regulations, a medical liability insurance crisis, and low reimbursement rates for the dually eligible are forcing many physicians to consider whether or not they can continue to treat certain patients or continue practicing at all. Access to care hangs in the balance. We need your help. Our members respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 203.

**For more information, please call:**

**Craig Czarsty, M.D., Legislative Chair  
Phyllis Darby, Executive Director  
Melissa Dempsey, Government Relations**

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