



**TESTIMONY OF**

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President and CEO**

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**Submitted to:  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 27, 2007**

**SB 1128, An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations With  
Respect To Social Services Programs**

I would like to comment on Section 9 of the proposed bill, SB 1128, An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations With Respect To Social Services Programs.

As drafted, this section requires the Commissioner to seek a waiver from federal law for the purpose of enhancing the enrollment of the HUSKY Plan. This section currently limits its focus to enrolling HUSKY Part A participants into employer sponsored private health insurance.

I concur with the Connecticut Hospital Association's position that this section's waiver focus should be expanded to include moving the SAGA population into HUSKY. There are immediate benefits to this approach. First, the state would then be able to claim a match for all SAGA expenditures thereby decreasing for the state the cost of operating the program. Second, it will eliminate Connecticut's current disadvantage in being able to attract federal Medicare DSH dollars into the state.

Many other states have moved their general assistance populations into Medicaid. In so doing, they have helped their state's economy by bringing back more federal tax dollars in the form of Medicare DSH dollars. By not characterizing SAGA as Medicaid, as many other states have done, Connecticut is unable to maximize this source of federal Medicare funding for hospitals. This is an opportunity we believe Connecticut and hospitals can ill afford to continue to forfeit.

Thank you for your consideration.