Wed 1/31/07

Good morning/afternoon to the members of the Public Health Committee, invited guests, and members of the public who are here to share and support testimony. Thank you everyone for being here.

My name is Barbara. Hfd resident, registered voter, doing my best to be a recovering human being. The following are just a few examples of why I am in support of proposed Senate Bill No. 1, An Act increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare, for all CT residents.

Ive been on disability and Medicaid since the mid 1980's. This allows me to be eligable for extra help, at least for now, with paying co-payments for many daily medications and frequent Drs' appts. I have multiple medical challenges. Literally, from head through toes. Most of my doctors gave up expecting any payments from Medicaid for their services along time ago. Fewer and fewer physicians accept Medicare/Medicaid assignment. Forget about specialists. My doctors are medically educated, qualified, and knowledgable about what to do-eventually, with my medical cess-pool (gene-pool) In my opinion, their signitures on my prescriptions are "prior author-ization". Im not a human 'guinea pig' for pharmacutical or political profit. Just because Im chronically medically challenged, I am not personna non-grata. Ive gone to clinics, and waited to be guessed about by unqualified interns. Ive been mis-medicated, over medicated, become resistant to medications. Ive had all kinds of bizarre side effects, not mention allergic reactions from rashes and infections, to seizures and anaphylactic shock from not only medications, but OTC's, foods, weather changes, and several chemicals. Im sick, not only more often, but also for longer time periods. Ive no idea how many times Ive heard my doctors, of almost 10 yrs now, say "I dont know what else to do for you." Mostly because Medicare/Medicaid and the 'powers that think they be' say no. And I wont go into how much Ive be restigmatized, and humiliated, ect... by people educated experienced to know better. Every living entity, has the probability of becoming ill, with whatever kind of illness. Healthcare needs to be accessable and affordable for all. We all deserve quality, also known as dignity, respect, and humane compassion.

Thank you for listening.