Testimony
Human Services Committee
Senate Bill, 562
Legislative Office Building
March 4, 2008

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Good morning co-chairs, vice chairs, and to all the members of the Committee my name is Charles Mims, Advocate Organizer, with Advocacy Unlimited. I wish to speak on Senate Bill, 562 to increase access to the Medicaid Program by the elderly and the disabled. The eligibility limit for the elderly and disabled must be increased; these are populations in our society that need our assistance. We simply cannot allow there to be gaps in medical coverage, especially when medical treatment is so vital to a good quality life. To share my own experience with you; I went to the emergency room with some type of allergic reaction; they ran my insurance at the hospital and it was fine, but by the time I got to the pharmacy with the prescription I was told I had no insurance. People with serious conditions that might be aggravated by an interruption in their meds cannot afford this type of calamity. The question is why there are variations in eligibility requirements among the various Medicaid populations; this could be construed as preferential treatment. These elderly and disable are experiencing enough hardship without being denied essential treatment and medications because the qualifying standard for Medicaid has not been raise since the early nineties, unlike the cost of living. Please remember these individuals are living on fixed incomes and are suffering from infirmities for which medications and treatment are and absolute must.