



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDIA "DOLLY" POWERS
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER-AT-LARGE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
TELEPHONE
HOME: (203) 637-1438
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
E-MAIL: Claudia.Powers@housegop.ct.gov

CO-CHAIRMAN
REPUBLICAN BILL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT
ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony

Date: February 26, 2008

To: Senator Jonathan A. Harris
Representative Peter F. Villano
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Representative Dolly Powers

Re: **Bill No. 34, Section 6, An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations With Respect To Social Services Programs.**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to strongly commend Section 6 of SB 34. Section 6 requires DSS to consult with OPM on hospice services being added to Connecticut Medicaid. Governor Rell has heard our debates of the last few years and has thoughtfully included adding hospice services to her budget. She believes, as we do, that the service costs will be more than offset by savings in institutional care. I believe, as I hope you do, that as important as controlling cost is – my motivation is driven by the proven benefits of hospice services for the patient and family. As I have shared with you in the past, my personal encounter with hospice for my dying father fuels my determination to be sure Connecticut Medicaid patients have access to covered hospice services. Only Oklahoma and Connecticut do not do this. It's time for Connecticut to move forward and I thank Governor Rell for including this critical step in her proposed budget.

Thank you for your attention and support for this necessary step forward.