



March 4, 2008

**Human Services Committee Testimony**

**S. B. No. 562 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INCREASED ACCESS TO THE MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR THE MEDICALLY NEEDY ELDERLY AND DISABLED.**

Please accept these comments for the record.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant needs including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities.

**We urge you to support S.B. 562**, which increases Medicaid eligibility for the “medically needy, elderly and disabled” population in Connecticut. Currently, Connecticut provides Medicaid coverage for people who are elderly and disabled with income levels up to 60% of the federal poverty level, a level that has not been increased since 1990. Last year the Legislature took an important step by raising the eligibility income for Medicaid for most other low income populations but did not address the income eligibility for this needy population.

We ask that your Committee support this legislation that provides Medicaid coverage for people who are medically needy, elderly and disabled with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level. This is the same income eligibility as parents and caregivers of HUSKY children. In addition, we ask that you make provisions so that low income individuals who have higher income levels can qualify for Medicaid coverage if they incur enough medical bills to “spend down” to the income limits.

Your support will greatly increase access to health care services for a vulnerable population.

**CCPA**

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