



Quality is Our Bottom Line

**Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
Friday, February 29, 2008**

**Testimony regarding
HB 5542 AAC the Use of Telemedicine to Promote Efficiency
In the Delivery of Health Care Services**

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans is pleased to offer testimony with respect to **HB 5542 AAC the Use of Telemedicine to Promote Efficiency in the Delivery of Health Care Services**.

As an industry, we firmly believe that every possible tool should be brought to bear to ensure that quality, affordable health care is accessible to the citizens of the State of Connecticut. Telemedicine may, in fact, have a large part to play in ultimately achieving this goal and we would be pleased to engage in further dialogue with the Chairs and other Committee members toward that end. But, we do have some reservations about certain sections of the bill before you.

We are pleased that the Committee recognizes the need to investigate the feasibility and appropriateness of using telemedicine to manage and treat patients with certain diseases by calling for various PILOT projects under the proposal. However, we would respectfully suggest that sections 3 and 4 of the bill, which mandate that health insurers cover telemedicine services, await further consideration until the outcome of the PILOT studies is known and until more analysis can be done with respect to what parameters can be adopted to ensure that quality, and not just cost, is added to the system.

Given the complexity of the issue and the fact that telemedicine is still emerging as a new technology, we believe that intensive ongoing analysis is warranted before Connecticut moves to mandate coverage. We are more than pleased to participate in a continuing dialogue around telemedicine, its benefits and challenges, and would be happy to work with the Committee in the weeks and months ahead to construct a framework for its meaningful usage.

Thank you for your consideration.