



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony

Date: February 29, 2008

To: Senator Mary Ann Handley
Representative Peggy Sayers
Members of the Public Health Committee

From: Representative Dolly Powers

Re: **S.B. 283, The Availability Of Hospice Services Under The Medicaid Program.**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to strongly support S.B. 283 which requires DSS to add hospice services to Connecticut Medicaid. After all the debates we have had on this issue over the years, we all know now 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 you for raising this critical bill.

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

DP/djg