

## Healthcare, Advocate

---

**From:** mgrande@att.net  
**Sent:** Monday, February 09, 2009 3:33 PM  
**To:** Healthcare, Advocate  
**Subject:** Vote No on the Closure of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate

To the Connecticut State Subcommittee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to Governor Jodi Rell's recommendation of shutting down the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. In these times more than ever this office is essential to the consumer trying to navigate the insurance industry. It is my understanding this department is funded not by the taxpayer but by the insurance fund. If this is true I don't understand the reasoning for her closing the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and again if this is true, you as the elected state legislatures are obligated to protect the rights of those who elected you to Hartford.

OHA has continued to provide advocacy services at no charge, to individuals who have been denied coverage or a claim by their insurance company for a service which is medically necessary and has proposed legislation that removes unnecessary barriers to healthcare access under managed care plans. Who will do this if this office is eliminated? Who will protect citizens when coverage is wrongly denied?

This committee must remember OHA has forged positive working relationships with your and the executive branches as well as our Congressional delegation and health advocacy organizations nationwide to stay at the forefront of healthcare reform efforts. They have played a critical role in the creation of national mental health parity legislation. Again, who will make sure the citizens of Connecticut are protected?

I feel closing the Office of the Healthcare Advocate is wrong and again if this office is funded by the insurance companies and not the taxpayer I would like to know what purpose it would serve to close it?

Sincerely,  
Mary Grande  
98th District  
2 Squire Lane  
Branford CT 06405  
203.488.2717  
[mgrande@att.net](mailto:mgrande@att.net)