

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Martin M. Looney, Co-Chair
Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 1000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

The Honorable Claire L. Janowski, Co-Chair
Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 1000, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Chairmen Looney and Janowski,

We write in strong support of the reappointment of Mr. Kevin Lembo as Connecticut's State Healthcare Advocate.

Created by the Legislature in 1999, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA) has helped to protect consumers in their dealings with the health care and health insurance industries. The OHA has educated consumers about their rights and responsibilities with respect to their health insurance plan, provided direct advocacy for patients when insurance claims are denied, and recommended state and federal legislation to protect health care consumers.

Under Mr. Lembo's leadership, the OHA served over 2,000 Connecticut families last year and has assisted approximately 7,500 families during his four year tenure as the State's Healthcare Advocate. Due to these efforts, Mr. Lembo's office has saved Connecticut consumers almost \$14 million.

Mr. Lembo's position, funded from the State's Insurance Fund, is particularly important now as Connecticut's residents are faced with major cuts in health insurance benefits and the complexity of navigating the COBRA process. Now more than ever, these consumers need an advocate to help ensure that they are receiving fair and just treatment as they strive to provide health coverage for themselves and their families.

In addition to his work at the state level, Mr. Lembo has been a national leader on questions of health insurance practice. This past summer, Mr. Lembo was invited to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the issue of post-claim underwriting and insurance policy rescission. Mr. Lembo has often consulted on health care policy with Members of Congress and has been an asset to our offices as we work to assist our constituents in their efforts to seek quality health care services. Mr. Lembo was also instrumental in helping the Connecticut delegation's fight to protect Connecticut's consumer protection laws during the negotiations to enact federal Mental Health Parity legislation.

We believe Mr. Lembo's reappointment would be of great benefit to the consumers of the State of Connecticut, and we urge you to act swiftly on his appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

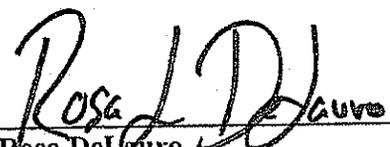
Sincerely,



Christopher Dodd
U.S. Senator



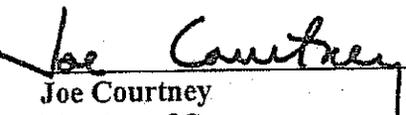
Joseph Lieberman
U.S. Senator



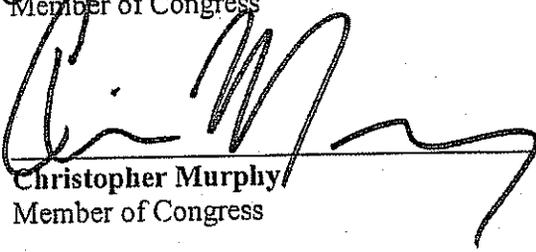
Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



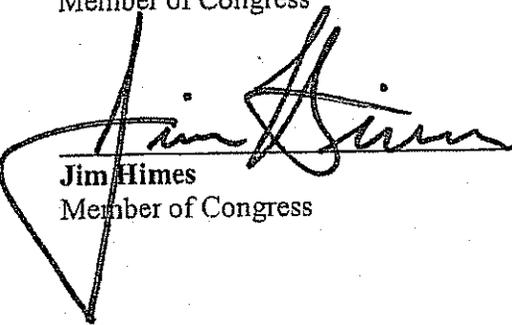
John Larson
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Christopher Murphy
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress