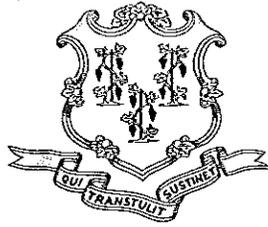


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528



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Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and members of the Human Services Committee. I would just like to offer brief comments on SB 528, An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility Requirements. We all know that the income limits for Medicaid eligibility are unrealistically low in our state. Even with the increases in the cash benefits and the unearned income disregard in the past couple of years, the monthly medically needy income limit is \$491.96 and the unearned income disregard is \$278. This means that the income of a Medicaid beneficiary beyond the cost of his or her medical expenses is \$769.96. This is below the federal poverty level of \$902 per month. I realize that with the state budget in its current status it would be difficult to increase the earned income disregard this year, but I do hope that in the future we will consider indexing the earned income disregard to 150% of the federal poverty level. Thank you.