



State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Commission on Children

Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 2, 2009

Testimony Submitted by Elizabeth C. Brown

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Committee. My name is Elizabeth C. Brown, Legislative Director for the Commission on Children. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 6600, An Act Concerning the Sustinet Plan.

The bill before you seeks to establish a well coordinated, comprehensive health care system to serve the health, mental and oral health needs of Connecticut citizens. The presentation last week of the Sustinet Plan outlined a radical departure from the current system that separates financing from the actual health delivery system. Over the years, the Commission has participated in numerous reform efforts to address this systemic problem. The Sustinet Plan is a well thought out, research based approach that brings finance and health care delivery into an integrated system. The plan calls for a new quasi-public governance system that would have the authority to bring all the health care arms together into one body, subjected to evaluation, quality control, standards and cost containment. The Commission urges as you deliberate this and other comprehensive reform bills, to include special attention to the needs of children and especially the children with special health care needs that demand a health care system to respond to their unique needs in a manner that does not bankrupt families. The current HUSKY A and B Program as well as private insurance programs do not meet these needs and families pay exorbitant out of pocket fees.

Thank you for your consideration of this important public policy