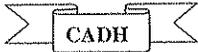


# CADH

## *Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Inc.*



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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Testimony to the Appropriations Committee - Regulation & Protection Subcommittee February 9, 2009 Re: HB 6365

The Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, Inc. wishes to testify in support of maintaining the existence of the Office of Health Care Advocate within the State Department of Insurance. The staff of the Office of Health Care Advocate have demonstrated their ability to provide exemplary cost saving assistance to Connecticut residents, both in terms of dollars and in establishing improved access to medical care.

Navigation through Connecticut's health insurance system to determine coverage for health problems presents a daunting challenge for even the most persistent and research-savvy resident. The Office of Health Care Advocate has assisted a significant portion of our state population in translating and applying State statutes and health insurance policy language in order to obtain the benefits for which they are entitled. Without OHA, those benefits go unused or under-used. This results in a compromised quality of life and decreased productivity for our state citizens, potentially increasing their dependence on other state sources of fiscal assistance.

OHA has already proven that they save state residents money, resulting in \$5,200,000 in consumer savings during 2008. In the past three years they have returned nearly \$14 million in savings directly to patients and their families. Funding for OHA does not come from taxpayers and the general fund. Elimination of OHA does not address the state's budget deficit. They are a stellar model for results-based accountability as they have demonstrated savings for healthcare consumers and providers at \$5.2 million while only spending \$1 million. As state agencies and departments strive for efficiency, OHA is a fiscally prudent example of model practices.

Local health departments and districts strive to ensure that their local populations have access to quality public health services and medical care. OHA represents a stalwart partner in connecting state residents with the services and benefits necessary for maintenance of their quality of life and survival. We urge you to scrutinize the decision to eliminate the OHA; the proof provided through OHA's benchmark performance measures provides fiscal and compassionate evidence that its existence should remain intact. Thank you.