



State of Connecticut  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2009

Senator Toni Harp  
Representative Tom Reynolds  
Co-Chairs, Regulation and Protection  
Subcommittee of Appropriations

Dear Sen. Harp and Rep. Reynolds:

Legislative efforts these past few months to protect health care delivery services to HUSKY children and parents has been aided immeasurably by the Office of the Health Care Advocate. At public hearings and in closed door meetings with DSS Commissioner Starkowski, Kevin Lembo and staff provided competent professional back-up for our joint arguments against endangering enrollee eligibility by frequent changes in provider networks.

Perhaps of greater importance is the singular role of the Office of the Health Care Advocate over the years in successfully challenging the denial of needed health care by countless individuals and, in many instances, needy citizens.

In today's national economic downturn, increasing jobless and state budget deficits, its literally life-saving services are needed more than ever. Since we all know that the Health Care Advocate's budget is funded by payment from the insurance industry and not from general taxation, there is no monetary benefit to be gained by eliminating that office. The responsible course of action is to reject the Governor's proposal and keep the Office of the Healthcare Advocate working for the people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Villano".

Peter F. Villano  
State Representative  
91<sup>st</sup> District