

February 18, 2009

Appropriations Testimony

Submitted By:

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I'm Christine Bianchi, Director of Community Programs at StayWell Health Center a Federally Qualified Health Center in Waterbury. There are many programs and Legislative Initiatives which I fully support, such as the Nurturing Families Network, Dental coverage for SAGA patients, and Primary Care Case Management. I also have concerns about the proposal to institute co-pays for HUSKY covered adults. These issues have come before this committee and are under consideration for budget cuts. I am confident that as the evening continues others will provide additional details regarding the negative implications that would follow if the proposed budget cuts were to be passed. I would be happy to answer any specific questions regarding these areas following my testimony.

In the meantime, I would like to take my remaining time to focus on the recently released Healthy Start evaluation. A summary is attached to my testimony. I will highlight the results of the evaluation which was conducted by an independent evaluator, Dr. Beth Osborne Daponte, Senior Research Scholar at Yale University, which began in the Spring of 2006 and was released in November 2008.