



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

**Commissioner Cristine Vogel
Office of Health Care Access
Friday, February 20, 2009**

Good Afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Cristine Vogel the Commissioner of the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) and I am pleased to testify regarding OHCA's FY2010 – FY2011 proposed budget.

The agency is staffed by 22 FTEs and is funded entirely by the hospital industry. The Governor's budget recommends a slight increase in personal services to reflect collective bargaining increases and a slight decrease in operating expenses:

	FY2010	FY2011
Personal Services	\$2,180,636	\$2,228,885
Other Expenses	<u>\$ 240,145</u>	<u>\$ 240,145</u>
	\$2,420,881	\$2,469,030

At the proposed \$2.4 million, no employees will be impacted and we will continue our operations and meet all mandated requirements.

The agency's core functions are to administer the Certificate of Need (CON) program and the collection of hospital financial data in order for OHCA to calculate the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program distribution in accordance with federal regulations. The agency also reports on issues related to access to health care services through databases that OHCA maintains. I am confident that with the Governor's proposed budget OHCA will maintain the existing level of services.

I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today and can answer any questions you may have at this time.