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**TESTIMONY RE: H. B. 6675 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING ACCESS TO
HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**
Public Health Committee
March 16, 2009

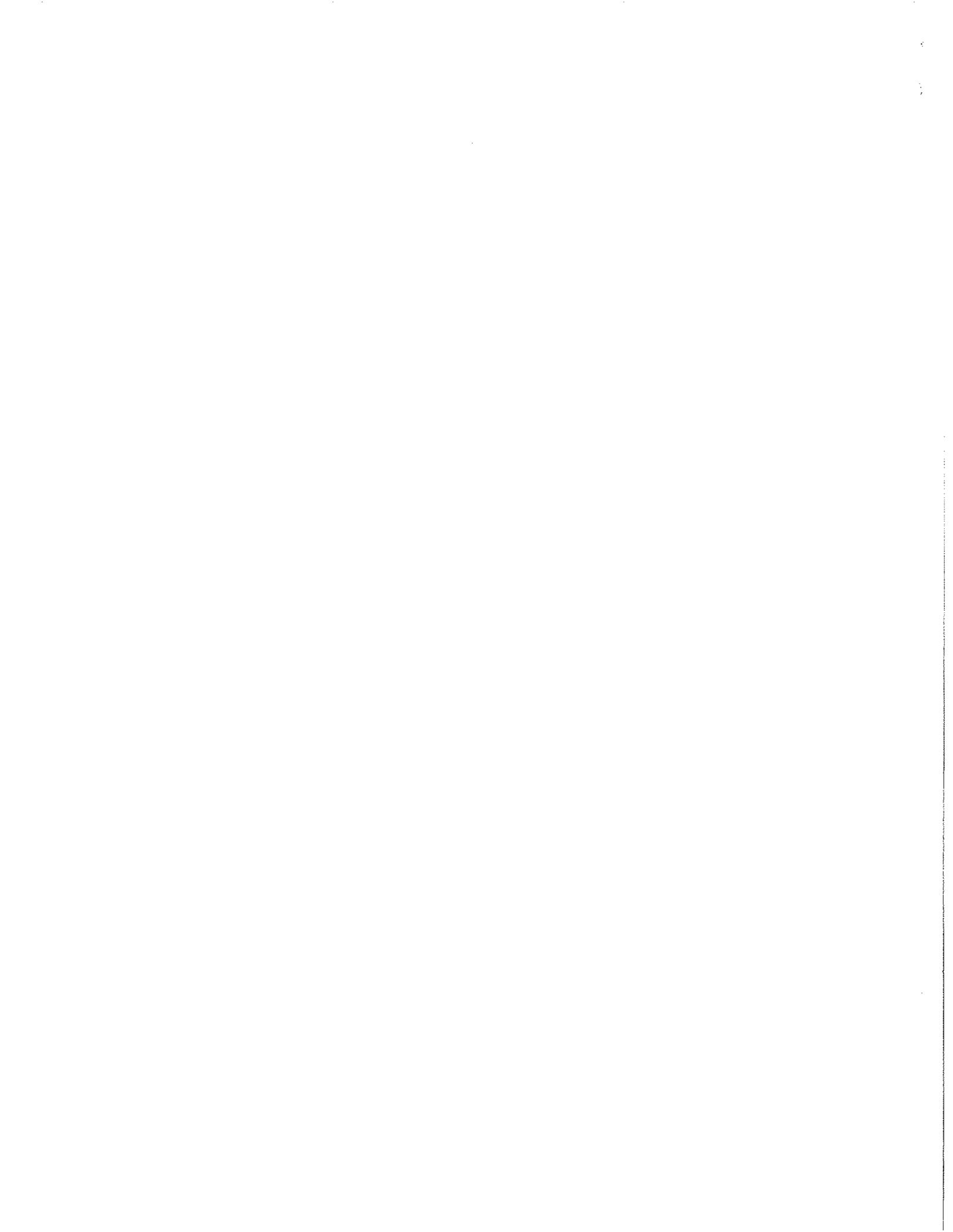
TO: Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Mary Jane Williams, RN, PhD, chairperson, Government Relations Committee, Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut, for Raised Bill 6675, An Act Increasing Access to Health Care in Connecticut. I am Mary Jane Williams, current chairperson of its Government Relations Committee and professor and chair of nursing at the University of Hartford. I have practiced nursing for over 40 years and have been educating nurses in Connecticut in both the public and private sector for over 35 years.

Our Association supports this bill, which will require the Commissioner of Public Health and the Comptroller to develop by July 1, 2009 recommendations for the most effective use of increased funding from the federal government for enhanced federal medical assistance. Our recommendations for improved health care delivery include:

- those that would be similar to or required through the development of the Connecticut Health Care Cost Containment Authority (S. B. 678 An Act Concerning Health Care Cost Containment) which is charged with developing a community-based health care model to reform the delivery of health care services in the state and finance technology required for implementing a comprehensive chronic disease management program and a wellness and prevention program administered through medical homes.



- the Association's consistently supported measures related to health care reform and delivery of care that have prevention and wellness at the core through primary care and that care is based on evidence and best practices which lead to better patient outcomes. Chronic disease management, case management services and care coordination are all best practices that would be utilized in the Authority's model.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and our recommendations. We encourage the Committee to consider these in their deliberations.

