



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

*TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
March 16, 2009*

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Secretary  
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**Testimony Concerning**

**S. B. No. 678 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT.**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on S. B. No. 678 An Act Concerning Health Care Cost Containment.

We have a number of concerns with this legislation and we assume it is a work in progress. That said, we would like to offer the following thoughts.

The authority is somewhat nebulous. It is not even clear who appoints this authority. We are concerned with the creation of an entity that is under neither legislative nor executive branch control but has the authority to reform health care in the state.

Moreover, this entity appears to have the authority to finance the procurement of technology. Will this entity have some sort of taxing and spending authority?

The bill has the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Comptroller engaging in a demonstration project. It is unclear whether the Comptroller's involvement is due to state employee and retiree health plans. If not, there does not appear to be any role for the Comptroller. Further, only DSS is required to report—why not the Comptroller?

The authority would not only be for planning and designing systems of health reforms but could also "furnish health care". It is not clear what that means or how that would be financed. The creation of an authority appears to be unnecessary for the other aspects of the bill, the "shared decision-making demonstration project by DSS".

That being said, the idea of looking at medical homes and shared-decision making models though a demonstration project may not be a bad idea, but it is not clear why one has to create a new authority to do it.

The Office of Policy and Management stands ready to work with you to provide for health care reform in this state that lowers costs and increases coverage. That is a goal we all share.