

Community Health Centers, Inc.
Testimony on SB 25
March 22, 2010

Sen. Daily, Rep. Staples and members of the committee:

My name is Alejandro Melendez-Cooper. I am site director for Community Health Centers, Inc., in Southeast Connecticut. I am representing CHC today to offer comments about Senate Bill 25, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes*.

The bill would deauthorize two projects that were approved for bonding by the General Assembly in 2007. These include \$1.5 million for renovations and new construction of CHC facilities in New London and Groton.

The New London project (\$1 million) would allow renovations at our site located at One Shaws Cove. It will enable CHC to add dental seats, medical exam rooms and an area for behavioral health. We can accommodate thousands of additional visits annually with these improvements.

The same holds for our Groton site. We currently rent 4,000 square feet of space; it is very cramped and we outgrew it years ago. The \$500,000 will enable us to relocate and serve many more patients each year.

We are seeing our caseloads go through the roof. More and more patients are coming through our doors each day. We don't have the space right now at either facility to meet their needs.

I would ask that you not deauthorize these two projects. They are critical to CHC's ability to fulfill our core mission—that health care is a right, *not* a privilege. Thank you.