



Office of the
Healthcare
Advocate
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Concerning SB 1089
March 12, 2013**

Good afternoon, Representative Megna, Senator Crisco, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate (“OHA”). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1089, An Act Concerning the Qualifications of Clinical Peers for Adverse Determination Reviews. OHA agrees that the changes proposed in this bill are long overdue and represent an important step to aligning Connecticut with principles of equity, as well as other states across the nation. Currently, Connecticut’s definition of “clinical peer” is inconsistent with surrounding states and the protection of consumers who purchase insurance to cover medically necessary care. SB 1089 proposed that, for any adverse determination, the requested service or treatment and available clinical information has been reviewed by a clinician with training, experience and, where indicated, specialization relevant to the claim being reviewed. States surrounding Connecticut have more vigorous peer reviewer standards; e.g., Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York.

While we support the principles behind SB1089, HB 6612 represents a more comprehensive and robust effort at addressing the inequity in the clinical peer reviewer standards.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. We look forward to continuing to collaborate and advocate for the consumers of Connecticut in this important matter. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.