



Office of the  
Healthcare  
Advocate  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri  
State Healthcare Advocate  
Before the Public Health Committee  
In support of SB 1129  
March 20, 2013**

Good morning, Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1129, An Act Concerning Health Plan Data. This proposed bill acts on key recommendations from the Office of Health Reform and Innovation's Basic Health Plan Work Group. A key element in the discussion concerning the merits of forming a Basic Health Plan ("BHP") in Connecticut was the uncertainty of what this program would cost, as well as concerns about the affordability of the Exchange for this population.

Assessing the claim experience of this group through data analysis in the eight key areas identified by the work group is critical to the ongoing discussion surrounding the merits and costs of a BHP. The data that SB 1129 requires the Health Insurance Exchange's Board of Directors to collect and report on will be an important measure of how affordable products through the Exchange will be for this threshold group.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at [victoria.veltri@ct.gov](mailto:victoria.veltri@ct.gov).