



*Written Testimony before the
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee*

February 10, 2015

The Department of Social Services offers the following written testimony.

S.B. No. 864 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF THE USE OF MEDICAID TO COVER THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

This legislation proposes that the Department complete a study of the effectiveness of (1) requiring state Medicaid to pay the cost of institution-sponsored health insurance premiums and provide supplemental coverage to medically indigent students enrolled in a constituent unit, or (2) prohibiting a student from opting out of institution-sponsored health insurance for purposes of qualifying for state Medicaid benefits.

As to prohibiting a student from opting out of institution-sponsored health insurance for the purpose of applying for Medicaid, the Department was informed by a representative of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that, if an individual applies and is eligible for Medicaid, the Department cannot deny the application because the individual goes to college and could enroll in the college's health plan. The Department would be willing to revisit this with CMS.

Medicaid pays for medical services for college students who have been determined eligible for Medicaid when the services are medically necessary and when the provider of the services is enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) as one of our existing provider types (clinic, physician, APRN).

The Department is open to discussing the feasibility of studying the effectiveness of requiring Medicaid to pay the cost of institution-sponsored health insurance premiums and provide supplemental coverage related to this proposal.