



Office of the  
Healthcare  
Advocate  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate  
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Re SB 368  
March 10, 2016**

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

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on SB 368, An Act Concerning Licensure of Single Purpose Dental Health Care Centers. As our health care system evolves, the importance of oral health and access to oral health care has become more and more prevalent. SB 368 would improve access to oral health care in Connecticut by allowing more dental care insurers to market their products in this state. The expansion of our health care insurance market will increase competition in the state, and thereby improve access and decrease market-wide dental care costs for consumers

Thank you very much for your commitment to this timely and important issue. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at [demian.fontanella@ct.gov](mailto:demian.fontanella@ct.gov).