



**Testimony of Ted Doolittle
Office of the Healthcare Advocate
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Re HB 5627
March 7, 2019**

Good afternoon, Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record, I am Ted Doolittle, Healthcare Advocate for the State of Connecticut. The Office of the Healthcare Advocate ("OHA") is an independent state agency with a consumer-focused mission: assuring consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health plans; assisting consumers in disputes with their health insurance carriers; and informing legislators and regulators regarding problems that consumers are facing in accessing care, and proposing solutions to those problems.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comment in support of HB 5627, An Act Extending The Period A Child, Stepchild Or Other Dependent Child May Retain Dental Insurance Coverage Under A Parent's Health Insurance Policy. Under current law, children remain eligible for coverage under a parent's medical insurance plan up to age 26. This bill would bring adult dependent eligibility for dental coverage into alignment with the eligibility rules for medical coverage. Accordingly, adult dependents under age 26 would no longer be forced into shopping for dental only coverage, while maintaining their existing medical benefits under a parent's subscription.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this testimony. If you have any questions concerning our position on this issue, please feel free to contact me at Ted.Doolittle@ct.gov.