**Testimony of Victoria Veltri**
**State Healthcare Advocate**
**Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee**
**In support of SB 21**
**February 5, 2015**

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 21, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage of Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesics. This is a very important measure to help ensure that consumers have equity access to appropriate treatment options.

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.