**Testimony of Victoria Veltri**
**State Healthcare Advocate**
**Before the Public Health Committee**
**In support of SB 252**
**February 23, 2014**

Good afternoon, Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, 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 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 Senate Bill 252, An Act Concerning Reports Of Infectious Disease At Hospitals. This bill builds upon existing statute that requires robust reporting of hospital acquired infections (HAI's) to the Department of Public Health (DPH) and would establish expanded analysis and publication of this data.

As Connecticut's healthcare system continues to evolve, transparency becomes more important than ever as consumers seek the best, most appropriate and most cost effective treatment. SB 252 promotes this transparency by making available to the public much more information concerning the rate and type of HAIs in Connecticut and helps to inform consumer choice.

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.