



****** Media Advisory ******

For Immediate Release
July 16, 2008

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Connecticut Healthcare Advocate Kevin Lembo to Testify Before Congress
Advocate discussing Connecticut's law to prohibit health insurance underwriting abuses

(Washington, DC) - At the invitation of Congressman Henry Waxman (D-California), State Healthcare Advocate Kevin Lembo will testify before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Committee is gathering information on post-claims underwriting abuses in the individual health insurance market, the problems of unwarranted/abusive policy rescissions, limitations and cancellations, and the impact on consumers of such practices.

The post-claims underwriting issue got statewide attention in 2005 and 2006 when there was a marked increase in the number of complaints from consumers who had their insurance policies taken away. Consumers were left with huge, unpaid medical bills – as if they were uninsured. In a joint effort by the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Office of the Attorney General and Insurance Department, Connecticut adopted *An Act Concerning Postclaims Underwriting* (Conn. Gen. State. §38a-477b) which prohibits the abusive practice.

Post-claims underwriting has also received widespread national attention and Lembo has been involved in forging consensus on a model policy that could be adopted by all states to stop abusive practices in the individual marketplace.

Lembo has been asked to testify about the impact this law has had on consumers, and Connecticut's experience with the new law.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives with broad investigative jurisdiction. U.S. Representatives Christopher Murphy (CT-5) and Chris Shays (CT-4) both serve on the Oversight Committee.

What: Hearing
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Hon. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman

Where: Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2154
Washington, DC

When: Thursday, July 17, 2008
9:30 a.m.

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