



**Testimony of Victoria Veltri, Acting State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Public Health Committee
In Support of S.B. 1048
March 2, 2011**

Good afternoon Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, Senator Welch, Representative Perillo and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Victoria Veltri, the Acting State Healthcare Advocate. My office, the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (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 face in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

I am happy today to testify in support of SB 1408. This bill provides a necessary, positive change to Connecticut's health system, and I ask for your consideration of this important piece of legislation.

OHA supports S.B. 1048, An Act Concerning Dental and Health Care Reform. This bill would require insurers that provide dental coverage for children to continue to provide these services until a covered child has reached the age of 26. Federal health reform legislation requires insurers to cover other health services until a dependent reaches the age of 26; this bill would ensure that dental services, a vitally important aspect of overall health, are subject to the same requirements as other health services. OHA supports this bill as a fair, appropriate way to ensure dental services are treated in the same manner as other aspects of health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1048. If you have any questions concerning this testimony, please contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov or (860) 297-3982.