

Act Number:	09-009	
Bill Number:	6401	
Senate Pages:	1225-1226, 1479-1481	5
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THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 223 is marked
go.

Calendar page 9, Calendar 226, PR.

Calendar 227, Senate Bill Number 920, Mr.

President, I move to refer this item to the Committee
on Planning and Development.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 228, Senate
Bill Number 379, Mr. President, I move to refer this
item to the Committee on Finance, Revenue, and
Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 229 is PR.

Calendar 237, PR.

Calendar 239, PR.

Calendar page 10, Calendar 240, House Bill Number
6401, Mr. President, I move to place this item on the

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Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on consent. Seeing no objections, so
ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 241, PR.

Calendar 244, PR.

Calendar 245, PR.

Calendar 246, PR.

Calendar 247, PR.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 248, PR.

Calendar 249, PR.

Calendar 250, PR.

Calendar 254, Senate Bill Number 1070, Mr.

President, I move to refer this item to the Committee
on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President. Calendar 255, Senate
Bill Number 38, I move to refer this item to the
Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

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Agenda Number 3, Emergency Certified Bill 6716 and
House Bill -- correction, 6379.

Turning to the calendar, calendar page 2,
Calendar Number 475, Senate Resolution Number 19;
Calendar 476, Senate Resolution Number 20; Calendar
477, Senate Joint Resolution Number 74.

Calendar page 4, Calendar Number 139, Senate Bill
854.

Calendar page 6, Calendar 178, Senate Bill 873.

Calendar page 7, Calendar 194, Substitute for
Senate Bill 756.

Calendar page 8, Calendar 223, Substitute for
Senate Bill 46.

Calendar page 10, Calendar Number 240, House Bill
Number 6401.

Calendar page 12, Calendar Number 264, Substitute
for Senate Bill 1023.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 328, Substitute for
Senate Bill 814.

Calendar page 19, Calendar Number 400, House Bill
6351.

Calendar page 20, Calendar Number 402, Substitute
for House Bill 6193.

Calendar page 21, Calendar 408, House Bill 6322;

Calendar 409, Senate Bill 1013.

Calendar page 23, Calendar 423, Substitute for
Senate Bill 1010.

Calendar page 27, Calendar 443, Substitute Senate
Bill 1149; Calendar 447, Senate Bill 673; Calendar
448, Senate Bill 1029.

Calendar page 30, Calendar 459, House Bill 5138;
Calendar 461, House Bill 6406; Calendar 462,
Substitute for House Bill 6537.

Calendar page 39, Calendar Number 81, Substitute
for Senate Bill 760; Calendar 83, Senate Bill 762;
Calendar 99, Senate Bill 787.

Calendar page 40, Calendar 119, Substitute for
Senate Bill 778.

Calendar page 43, Calendar 171, Senate Bill 251.

Calendar page 46, Calendar Number 266, Senate
Bill Number 382.

Calendar page 51, Calendar Number 356.

SB855

Mr. President, I believe that completes those
items previously placed on the first Consent Calendar.

The Senate is now voting by roll call on the
Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return to
the chamber. The Senate is now voting by roll call on
the Consent Calendar, will all Senators please return

to the chamber.

THE CHAIR:

The machine is open.

Members, please check the board to see if your vote is properly cast and properly recorded. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked.

Would the Clerk please take a tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent Calendar Number 1. Total number voting, 35; those voting yea, 35; those voting nay, 0; those absent/not voting, 1.

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar 1 is passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, the two items that appeared on Senate Agenda Number 3, have just been passed on the Consent Calendar. I would move that the first item from Senate Agenda Number 3, House Bill 6716, the emergency certified bill, I move for immediate transmittal of that item to the Governor.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is for immediate transmittal to the

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SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed. Will the clerk please call Calendar Number 115.

THE CLERK:

On page 7, Calendar 115, House Bill Number 6401,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, favorable report of the Committee
on Human Services.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Flexer.

REP. FLEXER (44th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you proceed?

REP. FLEXER (44th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The bill before us changes the name of the food stamp program to the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Federal Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 changed the program's name. This act became effective

on October 1, 2008. The federally funded program provides assistance for food to economically disadvantaged individuals and families and is administered by the Department of Social Services here in Connecticut.

The program currently has 230,447 recipients as of February, 2009. The bill changes all references to the food stamp program in our statues to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as a SNAP. The bill also changes the name of Connecticut's existing supplemental nutrition assistance program to avoid any confusion with the federal program. This program funds nutritious supplemental foods for our soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters. The existing program will now be called the Supplemental Nutrition Commodities Assistance Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk as an amendment, LCO 5244. I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 5244, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule A.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 5244, House A, offered by

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Representatives McCluskey, Olson and Chapin.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none, Representative Flexer, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. FLEXER (44th):

Thank you Mr, speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan amendment. It clarifies the statutory language to ensure the State's ability to pursue recovery for fraudulent claims made under the formally named program or the new program. I move adoption.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule A. Will you remark on the amendment? Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment is necessary so that any fraudulent claims that Connecticut can seek or the federal government can seek have to be done under the old food stamp name rather than SNAP, as the new food stamp name. So I

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support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the amendment? Remark further on the amendment before us? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying, aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

All those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Gibbons.

REP. GIBBONS (150th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that I support the bill as amended and urge all my colleagues to do so. The food stamp program has been a very beneficial program in the fight against poverty throughout the country and especially in Connecticut. And this is something necessary that we have to do to have our statutes coincide with the federal statutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests come to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber. The House is voting by roll call. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? If the members have voted, will members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you. I'm just changing my vote, Mr. Speaker, to the affirmative. Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Aldarondo, for what purpose do you rise, Representative. Representative Aldarondo.

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REP. ALDARONDO (75th):

Mr. Speaker, I voted wrong. I would like to vote green.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Aldarondo in the affirmative. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 6401, as amended by House A.

Total Number Voting 141

Necessary for Passage 71

Those voting Yea 140

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 10

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed. Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 140.

THE CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 140, House Bill Number 6501,
AN ACT ELIMINATING SURETY BOND REQUIREMENTS FOR
RESIDENTIAL UNDERGROUND HEATING OIL TANK REMOVAL OR
REPLACEMENT CONTRACTORS, favorable report of the
Committee on General Law.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative Shapiro.

REP. SHAPIRO (144th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

REP. SHAPIRO (144th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, current law requires the people who remove underground heating oil tanks to do a variety of things. They must register with the DCP and meet requirements of hazardous materials training. They must have a surety bond of \$250,000, and they must also have insurance in the amount of a million dollars to cover liabilities.

In addition, companies who remove these tanks are required by the DEP to have either a \$250,000 surety bond, assets of \$250,000 or liability insurance in that same amount. But currently, the law does not meet with the practice in this industry, in the state. People are unable to obtain the surety bond. No one offers it. And so basically, our entire industry is

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legislative intent wasn't, someone could try to argue nonlawyers could file an appeal. You meant more the in-house?

JAMES MCGAUGHEY: Yes.

SENATOR DOYLE: At the first level?

JAMES MCGAUGHEY: Yes, the administrative proceeding.

SENATOR DOYLE: Any other questions from committee members? None.

JAMES MCGAUGHEY: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Next person is Kevin Loveland and David Parrella. I think together?

Kevin, is that -- thank you.

KEVIN LOVELAND: Good morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Kevin Loveland. I'm the director of the Bureau of Assistance programs at the State Department of Social Services. I am joined this morning by David Parrella, our director of medical care administrative at the department.

We are principally here this morning to testify in support of legislation introduced in the committee at the request of our department. We are also providing written comments for the record for several other bills on the today's public hearing agenda.

I will start with the bills introduced at the request of the department; raised Bill 853, an act limiting liability for homemakers and

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HB 6401
HB 6151
HB 6416
SB 637

level involvement of their parents and the day-to-day decision-making concerning the child's care.

These children placed in residential treatment also typically do not qualify under Medicaid rules until the month they have been in residential placement for 30 days. This bill would include the Department of Developmental Services, in addition to the Department of Children and Families, as a state agency whose children can qualify for state funded medical assistance if they do not qualify for Medicaid in order to assure these children have access to needed medical services during these gaps in Medicaid eligibility.

The Department recommends that the Human Services Committee support this bill again this year.

Next, raised bill 6401, an act concerning the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246, changed the name of the federal Food Stamp program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP, effective October 1, 2008. This bill changes all references to the Food Stamp program in the Connecticut General Statutes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as I mentioned now known as SNAP for short.

In addition, the bill changes the name of Connecticut's existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which funds the provision of commodities for food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters through the Connecticut Food Bank to the Supplemental Nutrition Commodities

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Assistance Program in order to avoid confusion with the federal program.

The department also asked for the committee's support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. Mr. Parrella and I will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

SENATOR DOYLE: Any questions? Chairman.

REP. WALKER: Good morning, David. How are you?

DAVID PARRELLA: Good morning, Representative.

REP. WALKER: On your -- the liability for homemakers and companions who transport, you indicated that Oregon has -- has started this process. How long have they been doing it and what are the guidelines and limitations that they have in their process?

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DAVID PARRELLA: That is correct, Representative Walker. They passed that bill about four years ago. We'd would be happy to provide the text of it to you so that you could have that for your consideration. I think the issue that they're seeing is -- they saw there was the same issue that we're seeing here, where we have a number of homemakers and companions who are employed by the provider agencies for home and community based waiver programs and very often they are asked by the clients whose homes they are in to say, Gee, I need a prescription, or I need -- Gee, I have a doctor's appointment; I didn't make a call; I didn't reserve it; could you give me a ride. And I think we see this as if we advance this that it would be more convenient for the clients, but I think our concern is that

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legislature is concerned about is access, and that FQHCs have traditionally been a vehicle for primary care, but we've had to rely on our standard Medicaid enrolled panel for specialist services, and, I think as everyone can tell you, whether it's Medicaid or even some private insurance folks, there are some specialist services that are very difficult to access just by -- based on supply, particularly, when you're talking about specialists, who are specialized subspecialists for pediatrics medicine.

Orthopedics is a tough access point, but if you are looking for a pediatric orthopedist, there may only be six in the state, so getting access to those pediatric dermatologists, pediatric ophthalmologists is tough. And I think one of the potential solutions that this kind of model presents is that you can get those providers working in tandem with a facility model where they may not necessarily want to be an open practice for Medicaid, but they might do limited business through a clinic. And I think that is some of what you are referring to. And it may prove to be a new avenue for us to try to build better access for our patients because, as we all know, Medicaid is never going to be the most optimal pair relative to what's out there and, trying to attract some of these specialists that are in fairly short supply to serve the Medicaid population -- has been a challenge for 40 years, probably will continue to be a challenge. So any new model that can lend itself probably has some promise.

REP. THOMPSON: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Representative Morris.

REP. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HB 6401

Good afternoon, gentlemen. House Bill 6401, you can see the change from the Connecticut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program now to a Supplemental Nutrition Commodity Assistance Program. That existing program is it receiving federal dollars, or it is solely a Connecticut-funded program?

KEVIN LOVELAND: That particular program is currently only a state -- it's a state-funded program. We do have a companion federal program, known as TEFAP, The Emergency federal Food Assistance Program, that has federal dollars that also goes -- provides funding to, both the Connecticut Food Bank and Greater Hartford Food Share for the purchase of commodities that are distributed out to the food pantries and soup kitchens.

REP. MORRIS: Okay. The current budget for that program right now is about how much

KEVIN LOVELAND: I think we get about \$1.2 million in federal funds for TEFAP, and the existing state program has about 700,000 -- \$700,000.

REP. MORRIS: The existing --

KEVIN LOVELAND: For the -- the existing SNAP state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The one we're changing the name on.

REP. MORRIS: Okay.

KEVIN LOVELAND: There is funding in the stimulus bill, by the way, for additional funding, and, also in the Governor's budget, for additional funding for those -- for those -- for commodities.

REP. MORRIS: Is there additional savings that we can receive for commodities through what I understood was formerly known as the Food Stamp Employment FSTEP program because these are populations that are in need of employment?

KEVIN LOVELAND: Yeah. It wouldn't be for commodities but that is an area that we, God willing, the request for qualifications will be out within the next week or so, hopefully, from the department, to solicit people to participate in an expanded -- actually, now, it's the SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's program employment and training program where we are able to leverage some federal funds using existing state spending or other private philanthropic, local, municipal spending that's being spent on participants in the SNAP program. We're able to bring in federal dollars for those providers to supplement that.

REP. MORRIS: So is that being targeted to these groups, food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters?

KEVIN LOVELAND: No. That is for participants in the SNAP program. Now, they are oftentimes the same people. We do try to promote the SNAP program. A lot of our outreach efforts for the SNAP program are focused on these food pantries, and, you know, we always try to connect people who can qualify for the SNAP program with that program for those who come to the food pantries or soup kitchens.

REP. MORRIS: And, even particularly in emergency shelters, I will talk to you off line maybe --

KEVIN LOVELAND: Okay.

REP. MORRIS: -- with some further questions.

KEVIN LOVELAND: Glad to do that.

REP. MORRIS: Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Any other questions from committee members? Chairman.

REP. WALKER: I'm sorry. One other question, on your comments about the disproportionate share of payments to hospitals, can you explain to me -- it says that -- first of all, when was this formula -- thought I was going to let that go by, huh?

DAVID PARRELLA: I was hoping you would.

REP. WALKER: When was -- you put a lot of bills in your package, bury them. When was this formula derived?

DAVID PARRELLA: The add-on for the rate for disproportionate share?

REP. WALKER: Uh-huh.

DAVID PARRELLA: That goes back -- well, I've been in Medicaid for 22 years, and it was there when I got there, so it's a pretty old state plan amendment.

REP. WALKER: Is this -- okay. Do other -- what other -- what's the formula that other states use in planning this, or what is the common way of deriving the Medicaid fee?

DAVID PARRELLA: There's flexibility provided to the states relative to how you assess, identify the hospitals that qualify for that additional rate

situations.

I think everybody knows that's probably where we need to get to, and I think some of the comments from Representative Thompson, who's been a longtime advocate of access and community health centers and redirecting resources, that's where we need to go and -- and maybe -- maybe now that -- that we have an administration in Baltimore with CMS that seems to be a little more giving towards the states relative to where some of our avenues might be able to go, we'll actually make some progress on that.

So, I hear what you are saying, and we've just got to keep working at it.

REP. GIBBONS: Well, count me in on that committee to work on it because we've got to get people out of the hospitals and into primary care settings.

Thank you.

SENATOR DOYLE: Any other questions? Representative Morris?

REP. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just a follow-up to my earlier question around House Bill 6401, as I was referencing the FSTEP Program, first, I'd like to make a request, if I can, for a matter of record.

Under the current legislation that we passed two years ago for FSTEP, I would like to know -- I would like to have a report, if you can, on what programs we have implemented under FSTEP since we put that legislation in place. You know, how much have we, if anything, received, by way of reimbursement -- requested and received by

reimbursement? What are the future plans under that legislation and any time lines associated with it in order to recoup federal reimbursement dollars?

And it's, you know, we're changing names. We're clarifying, you know, the financial resources. I'm wondering has there been any coordination between DSS and the local work -- workforce boards in order to position ourselves to get more money through FSTEP? Particularly, since, you know, with this economy, we are going to have a lot of people who need to be retrained. People who have never been unemployed, have never needed food stamps or anything, but they're not going to qualify. And they're going to be needed to be trained for new jobs, so I think that would help us in our budget discussions, going forward, if we could maximize dollars that were given to people for food stamps and, you know, people that are -- people are just hurting. All right. So whatever time lines if you could let us know, what type of coordination is happening that would be worthwhile.

At the same time also let us know, particularly, you said, you, in your support, and your department's in support of this legislation, is there something that we need to add to this bill, some type of enabling legislation that would help us to enhance existing programs that should be considered as part of this bill?

You know, I think part of the challenge that we end up here with this so if we have different departments that are sometimes working in silos, but this may be an opportunity to take a look at what obstacles -- I know we've had conversations with the community colleges in terms of what we

wanted to do with FSTEP, but is there more that we should be doing with the local workforce boards, as well.

And if we could even project dollars we can get because I heard you say earlier that we are anticipating some dollars from the federal stimulus program that'll be connected to SNAP. Correct?

KEVIN LOVELAND: There are dollars to increase SNAP benefits under the federal stimulus program. I don't believe there are additional dollars for employment and training programs related to SNAP. There are lots of dollars in the federal stimulus program for the workforce boards, you know, for employment programs, that wouldn't -- but they're not related to the SNAP program itself.

REP. MORRIS: It may be worthwhile to take another look at that because I think what we found in the past was the food stamp program that had these untapped dollars that have been there forever and the light just kind of came on for us all of a sudden. It was buried in the paperwork, but it was there. And other states are taking advantage of it, so I mean, I may be wrong, but I think if what we're doing right now -- if all the federal government has done is just change the name, they've just changed the name, I would think that the existing programming and -- is still there. So we can just take a look at that so we can maximize that because, in addition to what they're doing under this stimulus program, there may be the possibility that existing programming dollars that normally go unspent we can take advantage of. That's what I'm just asking us to take a look at.

KEVIN LOVELAND: Okay. If I could just -- a couple of comments. When -- it was just this last session that you passed that legislation --

REP. MORRIS: Okay.

KEVIN LOVELAND: -- not on two years ago. And the key here, we do have one agreement in place and we're serving people in the program with Capital Community College.

The -- we have a request for qualifications that I'm trying to get out of the department onto the street consistent with what was in that bill last year, which requires -- which gives preference to community collaborative that come together and respond to the RFQ with proposals. Now, those community collaboratives should involve the workforce boards, the community colleges, the CAP Agencies, all the people who work with the low-income people, who participate in the SNAP program, as well as local employment and training providers.

And, basically, once we get that RFQ out on the street, we're going to be open to receiving proposals, and, as soon as we get them, we'll start working with those folks to get those programs up and running and funded. So that's -- that's where it stands, and I apologize that hasn't gotten out yet. It's been -- there have been these things going on in the Medicaid -- in the HUSKY program this past year that have taken a lot of attention of our contract folks so it's, unfortunately, fallen victim to that, but I think it's just about to get out.

And, we'll -- but I am, actually, preparing a report just like the one you asked for, and I'll

be sure you get that.

REP. MORRIS: Thank you, Mr. Loveland.

SENATOR DOYLE: Representative.

REP. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just wanted to follow-up on Representative Morris' question, particularly about money for the workforce boards for training, and you mentioned that they expect to get some more money from the federal government.

KEVIN LOVELAND: Yeah. I only know this from reading the summaries of the economic stimulus bill. It's not my -- that money will probably flow through the Labor Department rather than through DSS, but there are -- I know there are additional employment and training funding I've seen in some summaries, that significant funding coming, but I can't provide you with the details on that.

REP. BUTLER: I was just wondering whether or not the maximum allowed by Workforce Connection, I believe, was \$3,000 for training, and I just want to know if they're going extend that to more people or increase the amount or both?

KEVIN LOVELAND: I don't know, Representative. The -- I should be referring to the ITAs, the individual training account allowance --

REP. BUTLER: Yeah.

KEVIN LOVELAND: -- vouchers that they give out.

REP. BUTLER: Yes, yes.

KEVIN LOVELAND: I don't know -- my expectation is that's the case assuming there is additional Workforce Investment Act funding is included in that, but I don't know the details. And I'm looking forward to, actually, this week, I am sure we'll be getting a lot more information about that.

REP. BUTLER: Okay. Because that -- that will be crucial because with a lot of people that are losing their jobs and looking to get back into the job market that's critical towards their re-entry towards gaining new employment. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR DOYLE: Thank you, Representative Butler.

Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much.

The next speaker is Nancy Shaffer, then Senator Dan Debicella -- well, actually, I'll have to probably start rotating public persons.

Nancy Shaffer is next, then I'll go to -- the first person of the public I'll alternate is Tom Fanning, and then Senator Dan Debicella. So Nancy Shaffer.

Good morning, Nancy.

NANCY SHAFFER: Good morning, Senator Doyle, and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Nancy Shaffer, and I am the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and I appreciate being here today to speak to you on behalf of the aging and disabled residents of the state of Connecticut.

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**JOINT
STANDING
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HEARINGS**

**HUMAN
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2009



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Testimony Before the Human Services Committee

S. B. No. 853 (RAISED) AN ACT LIMITING LIABILITY FOR HOMEMAKERS AND COMPANIONS WHO TRANSPORT HOME CARE RECIPIENTS.

S. B. No. 872 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING STATE-FUNDED MEDICAL COVERAGE TO CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

H. B. No. 6401 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

H. B. No. 6351 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.

Proposed S. B. No. 346 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION TO COMMUNITY PROVIDERS.

Proposed S. B. No. 528 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

Proposed S. B. No. 634 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR MEDICATIONS USED TO SAFELY TREAT OPIOID ADDICTION.

Proposed S. B. No. 635 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO INFORM MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES CONCERNING THE USE OF MEDICATIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCY.

Proposed H. B. No. 6146 AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS.

H. B. No. 6402 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MAXIMIZATION OF MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGES (FMAP).

S. B. No. 817 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RIGHT TO A HEARING IN THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, TRANSITIONARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SECTION 8 VOUCHER PROGRAM.

S. B. No. 820 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM.

H. B. No. 6418 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME PATIENTS.

H. B. No. 6416 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENTS TO HOSPITALS and S. B. No. 637 AN ACT CONCERNING DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE PAYMENTS TO HOSPITALS

H. B. No. 6400 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STRENGTHENING OF NURSING HOME OVERSIGHT

*Kevin Loveland
David Parrella
February 17, 2009*

The department recommends that the Human Services committee support this bill again this year.

H. B. No. 6401 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

The federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246) changed the name of the federal Food Stamp program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) effective 10/1/08. This bill changes all references to the Food Stamp program in the Connecticut General Statutes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, now known as SNAP for short. In addition, the bill changes the name of Connecticut's existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which funds the provision of commodities for food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters through the Connecticut Food Bank, to the Supplemental Nutrition Commodities Assistance Program in order to avoid confusion with the federal program.

The department asks for the committee's support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Written Remarks on Additional Legislation

H. B. No. 6351 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.

The department requests that two technical revisions be included in this legislation.

1. Due to recent issues that needed attention and analysis in the Certificate of Need (CON) hearing area, it became apparent that 17b-352 (b) needs amending for consistency and accuracy in that it currently does not actually include a person who wants to establish a new facility. It only refers to expanding an existing program.

Subsection (b) of section 17b-352 is amended as follows:

(b) **Any individual or entity that intends to establish a new facility and** [Any]any facility which intends to (1) transfer all or part of its ownership or control prior to being initially licensed; (2) introduce any additional function or service into its program of care or expand an existing function or service; or (3) terminate a service or decrease substantially its total bed capacity, shall submit a complete request for permission to **establish a new facility or** implement such transfer, addition, expansion, increase, termination or decrease with such information as the department requires to the Department of Social Services, provided no permission or request for permission to close a facility is required when a facility in receivership is closed by order of the Superior Court pursuant to section 19a-545. The Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman