



## State of Connecticut

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

January 11, 2012

Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby  
Department of Social Services  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Commissioner Bremby:

We are writing as a follow-up to the meeting held on December 20, 2011, at which you and your staff discussed and answered questions concerning the DSS October 27<sup>th</sup> letter to CMS. In that letter, you broached the subject of a Section 1115 waiver that would allow DSS to modify Connecticut's Medicaid Low-Income Adults (LIA) program by, among other possibilities:

- Reinstating an asset test for LIA eligibility;
- Counting family income toward eligibility;
- Reducing available benefits; and
- Capping enrollment.

As you know, we had, and continue to have, very serious reservations about these proposed changes. The LIA population is one of our most vulnerable, and a modification of the program would likely cause disruption and loss of benefits even beyond the significant changes you were exploring.

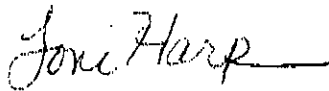
Your justification for seeking the waiver, both in your letter and as explained at the meeting, was that unanticipated growth in enrollment in the program had put a considerable strain on the state's budget. In the fall of 2011, OPM had reported a \$30M DSS deficiency which it attributed largely to growth in the LIA participation. At that time, OFA was not projecting a deficiency for DSS. Importantly, though, as you acknowledged, it appeared that the growth in LIA enrollment was already slowing by the time of our meeting. Additionally, we all recognize that from 2014-2016 the federal government

will be financing the new LIA participants at 100%, with a gradual reduction to 90% after 2016. These factors mitigate strongly against making any changes to the program now.

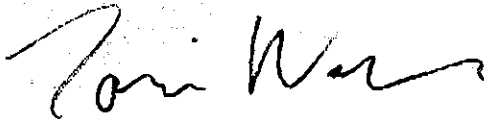
Finally, the strain on the budget that you cited in your letter and at the meeting as justification for exploring the waiver options no longer appears to be operative: OPM no longer projects any overall deficiency for DSS in FY '12; OFA and the Comptroller agrees with that position.

We trust, given all these factors and especially in light of OPM's revised DSS budget projection, that you will no longer be seeking any changes to the LIA program. We want to commend your agency for the success of the program that provides vital health care services to adults with extremely low incomes who would otherwise be accessing more costly services.

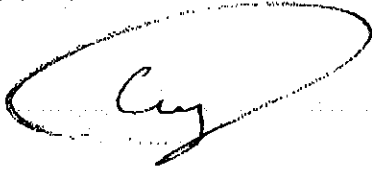
Sincerely yours,



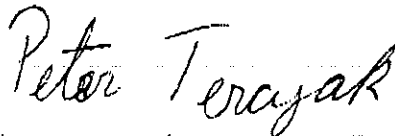
Senator Toni Harp  
Appropriations, Chair



Representative Toni Walker  
Appropriations, Chair



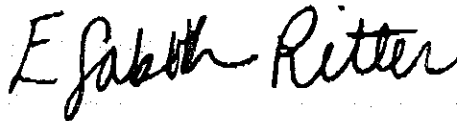
Senator Anthony Musto  
Human Services, Chair



Representative Peter A. Tercyak  
Human Services, Chair



Senator Terry Gerratana  
Public Health, Chair



Representative Elizabeth Ritter  
Public Health, Chair