

## One Connecticut Health Care Priorities

In order to improve health and contain health care costs through good primary care, reduced administrative costs and lower prescription drug costs, the State of Connecticut must develop a common-sense plan that provides affordable quality health care for all Connecticut residents. Such a plan would increase productivity and educational attainment, and build a stronger health care system for Connecticut's future needs. We support the following health security priorities for 2006:

### 1. Medicaid/SAGA

- Remove co-pays and premiums for HUSKY parents with incomes between 100 and 150% of federal poverty level.
- Remove administrative red tape policies that block families from getting coverage
- Increase provider rates under HUSKY—oral and behavioral health
- Remove cap on payments to hospitals and health centers so providers are reimbursed for real costs related to SAGA patients
- Reinstate non-emergency transportation for SAGA patients as a covered service

### 2. Fair Share Health Care.

Require large (2500 1/1/2007, 1000 1/1/2008, 500 1/1/2009) companies that do not pay for health insurance for their employees to pay into a health care trust fund to support the expansion and enhancement of public health coverage programs.

Expand options for small businesses and individuals to buy into the Municipal Employee Health Insurance Plan (MEHIP).

### 3. Prescription Drug Supports & Medicare Part D Gaps.

Fix Medicare Part D (prescription drug) state wraparound coverage to ensure that there is continued access to prescribed drugs and no increase in cost-sharing for ConnPace participants and people who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare (“dually eligibles”).

Provide temporary supplies of drugs requiring prior authorization and notification to provider and patient of need for prior authorization to participants in public health care programs (notice triggered by distribution of temporary supply).

### 4. Child Nutrition.

Connecticut children should have the optimal meal choices in their schools so they are better able to learn effectively and live healthy lives. This includes opportunities to participate in the School Breakfast Program and healthy, nutritious school meal choices at the one place many of them eat several meals a day.