

## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

**SENATOR KEVIN KELLY**  
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
E-MAIL: [Kevin.Kelly@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kevin.Kelly@cga.ct.gov)  
WEBSITE: [www.SenatorKevinKelly.com](http://www.SenatorKevinKelly.com)

RANKING MEMBER

AGING COMMITTEE

INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER

LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

July 27, 2016

Speaker Paul Ryan  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman John Larson  
1501 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Joe Courtney  
2348 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jim Himes  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty  
405 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan, Congressman Larson, Congressman Courtney, Congresswoman DeLauro, Congressman Himes & Congresswoman Esty:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act (H.R. 670) which recently was approved by the Energy and Commerce Committee. This legislation is well crafted, smart policy that deserves bipartisan support in the House as soon as possible.

In Connecticut, the state legislature worked together to pass bipartisan legislation to adopt the Special Needs Trust Fairness Act in Connecticut upon its passage in Congress. With the Act clearing another hurdle this month, I urge you to support its continued advancement through Congress.

As you are aware, federal law allows disabled individuals to establish a trust to protect their assets from being counted toward supplemental security income and Medicaid qualification, but only if that trust is established by a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or court. Currently special needs individuals are not allowed to establish the trust themselves.

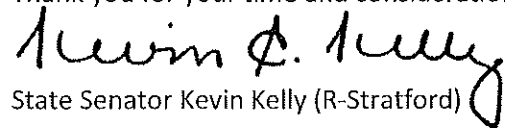
The SNT Fairness Act would empower and allow special needs individuals to set up a trust in their own name in order to protect their personal assets and qualify for supplemental security income and Medicaid services that they need. It would remove the requirement that these individuals go to a probate court to have a trust set up in their name which is a time consuming and costly process that involves unnecessary legal fees and court fees.

By pairing this bill with a legislative package that also includes Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation services for mothers of newborns and limiting the use of federal Medicaid funds to cosmetic drugs except when medically necessary, this is a package of smart policies that will help many Americans.

This bill is about fairness. It also will save time and money. It's about making sure that special needs individuals get the care they need and are able to protect their assets.

I was proud to cosponsor legislation in Connecticut in support of this bill and I thank lawmakers in Washington for all their hard work to turn this proposal into a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

  
State Senator Kevin Kelly (R-Stratford)