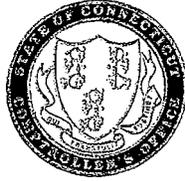


State of Connecticut

NANCY WYMAN
COMPTROLLER



MARK E. OJAKIAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

Hartford

Testimony of State Comptroller Nancy Wyman March 30, 2007

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **House Bill 7382 "An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Probate Court Judges and Employees"**.

I support including the probate court judges and employees in the state employee health insurance plan if the funds appropriated to the Probate Court to pay for health insurance are transferred to the active employee health insurance account managed by my office. I have discussed the health insurance issue with numerous probate judges over the past couple of years.

I have several points of clarification that I believe the Committee should be cognizant of as they move forward on this proposed legislation. Currently, the probate judge and Probate Court employees have the exact same plan as the state employees. Probate judges or Probate Court employees on the health insurance plan as individuals pay the same premium share as individual state employees. The probate judges or Probate Court employees who are in the employee plus one plan or family coverage plan pay a higher premium share than state employees pay with the same form of coverage. An example of the difference in monthly premium share for the Anthem Bluecare POS plan is as follows:

	State	Probate
Individual	29.05	29.05
2 persons	163.76	285.75
Family	193.27	404.81

As the bill is currently drafted lines 20-21 of the bill provides that the health insurance "shall be paid from funds appropriated by the General Assembly". It does not make clear that the funds that are currently paid by the Probate Court Administration Fund for health insurance will be transferred to the health care account administered by my office. In addition, since probate judges and Probate Court employees are not state employees they are not on the central benefits system therefore, the administration of the plan is done by the Probate Court Administrator's Office. I would recommend that the Probate Court Administrator's Office continue to perform the enrollment and collection of premium share from the probate judges and Probate Court employees.

Lastly, the proposed bill provides that the probate judges and Probate Court employees will be in the state employee health insurance plan under the same terms and conditions as are applicable to other state employees. First, I believe that the same goal can be accomplished by deleting subsection (g) of Section 5-259 in its entirety effective July 1, 2007. Second, if the bill in its current form moves forward, section 2 of this bill appears contradictory and unnecessary. If the probate judges and Probate Court employees are to be treated in the same manner as other state employees the premium share and other terms of the plan already are in place.

Thank you and I would like to work with you as this legislation moves forward.