

To: Public Health Committee Co-Chairs, Sen. Mary Ann Handley
and Rep. Peggy Sayers

From: Bernie McKinnon, Southington, CT

Re: S.B. 1 – An Act Increasing Access to Affordable, Quality
Health Care

Good morning Sen. Handley, Rep. Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Bernie McKinnon and I am president of UAW Local 133 retiree chapter and live in Southington, CT. I am here today as a long time advocate of 53 years for a variety of social justices issues including universal health care. We have reached a point in Connecticut and across the nation in which we have the real opportunity to fix our broken health care system starting with the greatest state in the union, Connecticut. I am asking for your support to make health care reform that is universal, continuous, affordable, sustainable, high quality and comprehensive.

I am proud to be the president of UAW Local 133 retiree chapter, we have 1,200 members with the average age of 80 years young. They are fortunate to have worked for a unionized company with the ability to negotiate a pension plan that included health care and prescription drugs. But my members are worried about their children, grand children and even great-grand children. Many of their families have no health care coverage or are underinsured and my members can do very little to help their families because they are on fixed incomes.

The UAW supports a single payer universal health care plan to achieve true universal health care in the state. The single payer model is already being used at the federal level through Medicare and also the Veteran's Administration. Sen. Williams said it himself when he said we need a system in Connecticut that is "Medicare for All". I urge members of this committee to continue the dialogue with your colleagues, experts in the field and advocates to find a solution to the health care crisis in our state, the time is now. Thank you for your time.

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