



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN D. WITKOS
SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT

15 HIGH LEDGE ROAD
CANTON, CONNECTICUT 06019

HOME: (860) 693-3985
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
FAX: (860) 240-0207
E-MAIL: Kevin.Witkos@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
INSURANCE AND REAL-ESTATE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony of
State Representative Kevin Witkos
In Opposition to House Bill 5617

February 26, 2008

Chairman Harris, Chairman Villano, Members of the Human Services Committee,

We hold a promise to the people of Connecticut, to provide quality, affordable healthcare. And the Governor's Charter Oak Health Plan is the best vehicle in which the state can fulfill its promise.

However, this promise is threatened by **HB 5617** *An Act Delaying Implementation of and Making Revisions to the Charter Oak Health Plan*. This bill would not delay the implementation of the program, but permanently dismantle it altogether. Passing this bill would be a detriment to the goal of providing every adult and child access to affordable healthcare in Connecticut.

The middle class needs more help now, than they ever have before. With this program, we would:

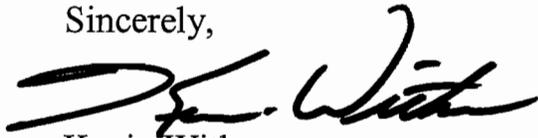
- Reduce the annual deductible from a max of \$1,000 to \$100
- Eliminate any coinsurance requirement
- Add dental and vision services as mandated benefits
- Eliminate the \$4,000 limitation on durable medical equipment

The Charter Oak Health Plan specifically mandates that the monthly premium cannot exceed \$250, which protects Connecticut's families and reduces the strain on their wallets. With approximately 10% of Connecticut's population uninsured, we would address one of the most pressing issues we face in the state today.

I strongly urge the committee to keep the promise, allow the Charter Oak Health Plan to proceed on its due course, and not take action on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Witkos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kevin Witkos
State Representative