



5018

**Testimony
Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
Before the
Insurance & Real Estate Committee
February 3, 2009**

Re: HB-5018, AN ACT REQUIRING A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS MANDATED IN THIS STATE

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce *supports* HB-5018, An Act Requiring A Cost-Benefit Analysis Of Health Insurance Benefits Mandated In This State.

The skyrocketing cost of health insurance is a major concern for our members. Each year, the legislature adopts new health insurance mandates that fuel increases in the cost of employer-provided health insurance. Many companies are faced with double digit increases in the cost of health insurance with little relief in sight. During these difficult fiscal times, we must take steps to create a positive business climate that nurtures job growth.

As part of that effort, we must address the rising cost of health insurance. Connecticut has mandated 42 health insurance benefits for group health insurance policies – more than any other state in the country, all of which increase health insurance costs to some degree. Requiring a cost benefit analysis of current health insurance mandates as well as any proposed mandates would clearly help address concerns with escalating health insurance costs.

According to the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), mandates play a significant role in the recent double-digit health insurance premium increases. NCSL indicates that individuals and employers—in particular, small employers—are in peril of dropping or canceling their health insurance coverage as a result.

We therefore urge your support for HB-5018. We also urge you to consider the increased costs associated with any additional mandates before this committee.

The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce serves more than 800 member companies from the North Haven and Wallingford area. We are the largest non-metropolitan chamber in the state.