



**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**

6277

TO: The Honorable Joseph Crisco and Steve Fontana
Co-Chairs, Insurance Committee
Members of the Insurance Committee

From: Lisa Hutner, Executive Director

Date: February 5, 2009

**Re: HB-6277, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Small
Employers**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) strongly opposes **HB-6277, which will increase already escalating health care insurance costs for small employers.**

Increases in health benefit costs are one of the chief concerns for small businesses in Connecticut. Many employers, including IEC-NE's members, are finding it increasingly difficult to provide adequate coverage for their employees, if they can even find affordable insurance at all. This inhibits our ability to expand and create jobs, particularly for our small employers, who are already at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to providing health care benefits.

A recent survey of business executives in Connecticut illustrates the problem – 75% of respondents say that health care is an important factor in whether or not to hire additional workers. 77% of respondents say that have experienced double digit increases in their health benefit costs over the past year.

HB-6277 will make a bad problem worse.

We believe that this bill takes a negative step toward addressing the need for affordable health insurance for Connecticut's small employers and their employees. We urge your rejection.

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.

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