

State of Connecticut

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6530

**Testimony Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
State Comptroller Nancy Wyman
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Good morning Chairman Crisco, Chairman Fontana, Senator Caligiuri, Representative D'Amelio and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. I am State Comptroller Nancy Wyman and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **House Bill 6530, "An Act Concerning the Accessibility and Effectiveness of Consumer Report Cards and Transparency in Health Insurance Claims Data."**

If enacted, this legislation would allow municipalities and businesses in the state the opportunity to request claims data from the entity that is offering them their group health insurance policy.

Specifically, insurers would be required, over the most recent 36 month period, to provide claims experience, monthly premiums and the number of those insured by coverage tier to the government body or employer in which they are issuing coverage. The insurer would not be obligated to make available the information more than once a year and would present the data in a written report, electronic file or through a secure website. In order to protect sensitive data, information that is required by law to be confidential would be exempt from requests by the insured entity.

As you are acutely aware, the rising cost of health care is threatening to have serious long term negative impacts on our national, state and local economies. Businesses are also struggling to keep up and their employees are feeling the financial pain of skyrocketing co-payments and deductibles. By 2016, employer sponsored health care plans in Connecticut could rise 75%, with the median household spending 34% of their income on health care needs.

Creating greater transparency in our health care system gives employers the ability to make informed, financially sound decisions when determining who to choose as an insurance provider. Employers that have access to claims experience can seek out competitive rates, shop for superior health care benefits and ultimately lower the costs for their employees.

It is my hope that the Committee will take favorable action on this important initiative. Thank you.