



Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE AND HUMAN
SERVICES COMMITTEES
MARCH 2, 2009*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 6582, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership.

This legislation allows municipalities, small businesses and non-profit organizations to join the state employees' health insurance pool -- enabling them to lower their health insurance costs. These employers can then join the pool if they feel it is a fiscally prudent alternative to their current health insurance plan for their employees.

Municipal governments, small businesses and non-profit organizations are faced with lower revenues and increasing health care costs for their employees. Many are abandoning health insurance coverage or imposing large co-payments on their employees.

A recent report found that 1 out of every 4 people postponed necessary health care procedures because they could not afford to pay for it. The costs of delay can be tragic. Further, the state, through Medicaid and programs such as HUSKY, often ultimately pay for the larger costs once the medical condition worsens.

Opening the state employee health plan will allow these smaller employers the benefits of the state's bulk purchasing power. In turn, additional employees give the state plan even greater purchasing power than it currently has.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 6582 as a common-sense measure to reduce health insurance costs and increase health insurance coverage for more of the state's workers.