

NATIONAL DOCTORS ALLIANCE
SEIU Healthcare

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1200
New York, New York 10018
212.356.8190

Proposed Amendments to SB 1004 AAC

To allow
Joint Negotiations by
Non-Integrated Physicians and Health Benefit Plans

On behalf of
National Doctors Alliance
Service Employees International Union
SEIU Healthcare
Joseph S. Fine, Esq.
Coordinator, NDA

I am Joseph S. Fine and I am the Coordinator of the National Doctors Alliance, SEIU.

I am here to discuss the disservice that is done to physicians and to their patients by preventing doctors in private practice from negotiating collectively with the huge health insurance companies that unilaterally determine what treatments will be provided and what fees will be covered. The State of Connecticut has the opportunity to address this problem by adopting SB 1004 AAC.

Current federal law does not permit physicians to work together to negotiate collectively with insurance companies unless their state government has established an oversight system to insure that patients and others are not hurt by allegedly anti-competitive practices. SB 1004 would provide for a closely regulated state system that guarantees the basic rights of doctors to speak and act collectively while protecting the public's interests.

SEIU unions represent tens of thousands of doctors employed in both the private sector and in the public sector. Doctors employed in the private sector are protected in collective activity by the National Labor Relations Act. Doctors employed in the public sector are protected by

various state laws. In Connecticut, the State Labor Relations Act (SLRA) protects their rights of collective negotiations, while prohibiting strikes. Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 31-101, et seq.

Unionized doctors often use their collective voices to advocate for programs and resources that promote better patient care. But, Connecticut's physicians in private practice are currently prohibited from participating in the fundamental rights of free speech and association. This leaves a great imbalance favoring the health insurance companies at the expense of private physicians and the health of their patients. We urge you vote in favor of SB 1004 AAC to address this problem.

Joseph S. Fine, Esq.
Coordinator
National Doctors Alliance
SEIU Healthcare
joefine@ndaseiu.org

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