CITY OF STAMFORD
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB6582 ALLOW MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO JOIN THE STATE HEALTH PLAN

Chairman, Co-Chairs and Ranking Members of the Public Health, Insurance and Real Estate and Human Services Committees, my name is Michael Freimuth and I serve as the City of Stamford's Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

Insurance makes up nearly $35 million of the city's overall $455 million budget. We have seen annual increases in health cares costs from 8 to 10 percent over the last few years and are constantly searching for ways to control these costs.

Should the savings be truly possible and justified and with municipal choice to enter the program, the city is supportive of HB 6582. As a self insured entity today, we are able to manage our risk and to control some of our exposures. We participate in a larger pool today for our prescription program and we are doing better. It therefore stands to reason that participation in a larger state pool will also offer us some options and competition to mitigate these ever growing municipal expenses.

We offer the help of our employee benefit team to the committees to further pursue this opportunity and to evaluate the options and program designs before you today.

Thank you.