

6582

February 28, 2009

Sen. Joseph Crisco
Co-chair, Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Rep. Steve Fontana
Co-Chair, Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Dear Sen. Crisco, Rep. Fontana and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am writing to ask you to support two critically important health care bills HB 6582, an act establishing the Connecticut Health Care Partnership, and HB 6600, the Sustinet health insurance plan.

I have been an optimist all my life, believing that I'll come out on the other side of a difficult time in a better place. I have seen a lot of ups and downs in the economy and for the first time, I am really scared, and here's why.

Health care and the economy are intricately intertwined with each other. Over the past year, the small company my husband works for has been cutting back: no pay raises, dropped dental insurance, cut pay and laid off staff, increased health insurance premiums 17%, then ran out of cash and had layoffs again while trying frantically to raise capital to keep the business going. This time my husband lost his job.

My husband is the bread winner and I have been the primary care giver for our two young boys. I have gone from working one, to three part time jobs, with no benefits, to bring income in. I have no idea how we will afford our regular bills plus the huge increase in health insurance. We have worked hard, saved money, he had a good job and good health insurance. Everything can change so fast.

These times are nothing like we have ever seen. We need courageous leaders who are willing to take bold steps to boost the economy, provide more affordable quality health care that saves money in the end for everyone, and helps the residents of Connecticut build themselves up again.

I urge you to support HB6582 as the first step in health care reform and support HB6600 for the comprehensive reform needed to help families and small businesses get back on their feet.

Respectfully,

Joan F. Goodman
8 Windy Way
Meriden CT 06450
203.630.3541