

Testimony for the Insurance & Real Estate Committee  
In Support of HB-5219

FTR

5219

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony at today's hearing. My name is Paul Simeone, living at 46 Pelham Lane, in Wilton CT.

I was laid off from the City of Bridgeport on Oct 24, 2008. My position at the City was Manager of Project Managers. The position was located in the Information Technology Department. I was a member of the Supervisors Union.

I am a single father, with 21 year old son and an 18 year old daughter. My son is a student at Western Connecticut State University and my daughter is a senior at Wilton High School. She has been accepted into four of the six colleges she applied. Both have part time jobs.

My initial COBRA premium was 512.61. This was for myself only; the children were covered under alternate coverage. In April of 2009, the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) subsidized my premium. This reduced my premium to 179.40.

In August of 2009, the premium increased to 194.69. Under this plan, there is a very small co-pay for various services.

On the job front, I am certified for the State of Connecticut DOIT (Department of Information Technology) level 2 analyst, level 3 analyst and manager positions, and have applied to every open position in these grades, however, there are few positions to apply and none have even yielded an interview. I have interviewed with many Information Technology headhunters, in both the Hartford area and the Fairfield County area, also yielding few results. And do keep a vigilant watch over various job posting web pages.

On the education side, I have taken refresher courses at Norwalk Community College in Project Management to keep my skills up to date.

Up to this point, these efforts have yielded few results finding a full time position.

I do some consulting work for in the Fairfield County area under, being paid on a 1099 without any benefits.

I have since been notified by the City of Bridgeport, the COBRA benefits will terminated on April 30, 2010. As a result, I have been researching family coverage on the private market through and insurance broker in Wilton, CT. After completing an in depth phone interview, we were all disqualified from purchasing individual medical insurance policies due to pre-existing conditions.