

Kubeck, Diane

02/25/10

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FTR

From: Teamweaver@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Rep. Fontana, Steve; Kubeck, Diane
Subject: Public hearing re: insurance abuses, Legislative Office Building in Hartford

Dear Diane and Steve:

Thank you for inviting me to send my written comments to be presented to the committee. I wish that I could be present, but have other commitments that afternoon. **I trust you will ensure that my comments are read aloud to the committee.**

Here are the facts and my feelings concerning my current insurance increase:

My insurance comes from a group policy sponsored by the New York State Assoc. of Realtors. Although I am a resident of CT, I hold my real estate license in NY. However, my rates are impacted by my state of residence, as told to me by my insurance provider.

The policy is held with **USI Affinity Insurance**. I will have been insured with them for approximately 16 months by the time this increase takes effect (4/1/10.) I was paying **\$499.51** monthly for a single member premium policy. **I was just notified that my payments will increase to \$660.53 monthly as of April 1st.** That amounts to an annual increase of **32.5%**.

In what universe is that allowed to be tolerated by our elected officials; officials who are supposedly painfully aware of how seriously millions of us are affected by the economy? And, despite the prognostications of the talking heads, we are not going to see a turn around any time soon. Just look at the current rising rate of mortgage defaults if anyone doubts the severity of the situation!

To consider reducing my coverage to a lesser policy makes no sense. The coverage options drop considerably, while the premium does not reduce commensurate with that reduced coverage. By the time I paid the additional annual out of pocket and/or what is not covered if a hospital stay is needed (I will be scheduling knee surgery this spring,) it makes no sense to change the policy. There are no savings when indeed the dust settles! The insurance companies have done a good job ensuring that.

While I do not profess to be an economist, I know of nothing else that comes close to this kind of an increase. Wages, if one **is** fortunate enough to be employed, have remained stagnant if not declined. I, an independent small business owner, have seen my business decline by more than 50% over the past 18 months, and despite my reduced revenue, every other expense I have has gone up.

When I asked the insurance provider what could account for this usury, **I was astonished to hear the following explanation:** costs for caring for patients rose, and there were far more claims than we had anticipated. The H1N1 vaccine was very expensive and thus our

profit margins were impacted by these additional costs. Well, at least I can give credit to the person who shared this information in that she was candid. It is always about profit margins, isn't it!

Please know that this increase constitutes a great deal of suffering for me and my family. I don't know if I can pay this additional amount. My husband is retired, but works at an hourly job just to help meet the bills. I already shared the status of my business.

If any of you have been among those who've refused to clean up the insurance companies' abuses and are not supporting passing health care reform, **shame on you and your colleagues!** What else has to happen for Washington and Hartford to WAKE UP! It feels to me as though the collective age of our government's elected officials is around 13. Saying, No, is not a solution. If this situation continues, we are going to bankrupt the system, more and more of us will end up without insurance and therefore have to use the emergency room for routine medical needs. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are paying a fortune for these emergency room visits already. Have you calculated those costs when delaying a compromise solution? I think not.

It is time to stop worrying about keeping your butts in your seats and start covering ours!

**Sincerely,
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