

TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
MARCH 9, 2010

My name is Eric George and I am Associate Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

Both nationally and here in Connecticut, the health care system is in need of repair.

More needs to be done to improve the health of our citizens. Employers find health care costs rising faster than other input costs. Some providers are unable to generate sufficient patient revenue to cover costs. Some patients cannot get timely access to optimal care. And too many individuals remain without health insurance, engage in unhealthy behaviors and live in unhealthy environments.

For the business community, the issues of health care quality, cost and access are critical. After numerous years of double-digit and near-double-digit increases, health insurance has quickly become a product that many people and companies find they can no longer afford. In addition, the cost of health care directly affects businesses' ability to create new jobs. In fact, according to CBIA's latest membership survey, over two-thirds of our members indicated that rising health benefit costs alone are negatively affecting their ability to hire additional workers.

With that, CBIA would like to briefly comment on **SB 393, AN ACT CONCERNING STANDARDS IN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CONTRACTS**. I understand that the Committee is currently negotiating this bill with advocates from both the insurance industry and the physician community. CBIA hopes that as you and the parties proceed toward crafting this legislation, that the end result does not increase health care costs for the payer community – of which employers make up the largest percentage.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments on this legislation. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues related to the reforming Connecticut's health care system.