



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 14, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

H.B. 6308 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP.

S.B. 921 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.

H.B. 6323 AN ACT MAKING CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE INSURANCE STATUTES PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND ESTABLISHING A STATE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

H.B. 6305 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN.

H.B. 6322 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PURCHASING.

It is no secret that health insurance remains one of the biggest cost-drivers of any municipal budget. Towns and cities presently spend between 8% and 15% of their local budgets on health care for their employees. For the past several years, annual increases in premiums have typically ranged between 9% and 15%.

Hometown Connecticut needs your help. More importantly, local officials need options that communities can voluntarily avail themselves, including such programs proposed in these bills which can at least hold the line on drastic health insurance increases.

-Turn over -

It is imperative that local governments be afforded the discretion and flexibility to decide for themselves which tools apply best for their municipalities.

CCM urges the committee to maintain the local options established throughout these proposals as a critical means to provide towns and cities choices in addressing skyrocketing health care costs.

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If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara via email rlabanara@ccm-ct.org
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