Anthem.

February 14, 2011

Statement
Of
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
On
HB 6305 An Act Concerning Implementation of the Sustinet Plan
Before the
Public Health, Insurance and Real Estate and Human Services Committees

Connecticut, like many states, is facing a myriad of challenges in the area of health care, including needed funding increases in Medicaid programs to expand eligibility, and ever increasing health care costs for individuals and employers in both the public and private sectors, particularly for small businesses. At the same time, Connecticut is uniquely positioned to address these challenges as it possesses the most talented and dedicated health care delivery and health insurance workforce in the nation. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield realizes that the issues of the uninsured and making health care more affordable and accessible are at the forefront of policymakers' minds in our state. Anthem believes that as a health insurer that has been dedicated to serving our state for 75 years, we have a duty and a mission to partner with all stakeholders to address and solve these issues. While we are still reviewing and analyzing **HB 6305**, we felt it was important to offer an initial reaction to the goal of this legislation.

The opening statement of this legislation is an important one: "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) It is declared that, for the benefit of the people of the state, the increase of their welfare and prosperity and the improvement of their health and living conditions, it is essential that this and future generations be given the fullest opportunity to obtain health care that is universal, continuous, affordable, sustainable, and that enhances health and well-being by promoting access to high quality health care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered and equitable and therefore the SustiNet Plan and its governing authority are established herein."

Anthem agrees that these are worthwhile goals to work towards and offers the following comments in furtherance of these principles. Exploring and implementing new ideas while capitalizing on the innovative and successful programs of the current system will help ensure continuity of access to quality care, benefit program design and administration, and health care financing and risk management. Additionally, building on the resources and expertise of the private sector health insurance industry in this state will help safeguard the financial stability and solvency of the program which is essential to ensuring that the goals achieved by this bill are sustainable in the long run.

The private health insurance industry has demonstrated experience in delivering innovative and efficient programs consistent with the goals outlined in this bill. Some of those programs include:

- Payment mechanisms and incentives that encourage access to quality, efficient care;
- Patient centered medical homes and accountable care organizations (ACOs);
- Case management, disease prevention, and chronic disease management;
- And wellness programs and member education programs designed to improve the health of consumers.

The private sector has also pioneered consumerism tools and value based benefit programs to help consumers better understand how to evaluate and manage their own health care needs. These are fundamentals that have worked to address the cost of and access to quality health care services.

During this legislative session, the Legislature, Connecticut insurers and Connecticut providers have a unique opportunity to make the health care system in our state more affordable and accessible for all Connecticut residents. To do so, we will need to combine the significant reach of our state government with the efficiency, innovation, and dedicated and talented resources of the private market.

We thank the Committees for the opportunity to comment on this legislation, and we are available to assist legislators in your deliberation of this legislation and provide further information.