



JFACT

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Handwritten notes:
JFACT
Sustinet

**Testimony before the Insurance & Real Estate, Human Services and Public Health
Committees
2.14.11**

**In support of
HB 6308, AA Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership
HB 6305, AAC Implementation of the Sustinet Plan**

Senators Crisco, Musto and Stillman, and Representatives Megna, Tercyak and Ritter and members of the committees, My name is Robert Fishman and I am the Executive Director of JFACT, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut. As the Public Affairs arm of the 9 Jewish Federations we represent in addition to those federations: 3 Jewish sponsored Nursing Homes, 8 Jewish Family Service Agencies and 4 Jewish Community centers. In our network of social service we have over 750 employees and about half that are non-union. Most of all employees are members of all faith groups and our agencies are United Way members. We respectfully urge the committees voting on Sustinet to bring on board the nonprofit sector at the same speed the municipalities are invited in. We have seen 18-20% increases in Health Insurance costs in just this past year and a 30% increase over 2 years. For nonprofits this is not sustainable. We also would like the committees to examine how to include networks of nonprofits such as associations to join the proposed new state program as opposed to the current model of only allowing each agency to fend for itself with its own EIN number. It makes sense to pool nonprofits together as municipalities and the state is already pooled. As a member of the Conn. Association of Nonprofits Public Policy Council I would like to propose you consider pilot programs for a few nonprofit groups to enter the program at the same time as municipalities and not wait another year or more to allow us to participate. My own organization is most open to this idea of being one of those pilots. Let's use our Connecticut ingenuity to make health care more affordable and available to our Connecticut citizens.

I am grateful to the 3 committees and Speaker Donovan and Majority Leader Sharkey and the leaders of the state senate for proposing an inclusive health care initiative for our state.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions.

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The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) is a statewide Association serving as a legislative representative for the nine Connecticut Jewish Federations and their associated agencies, an advocate for the Jewish Community, a public affairs spokesperson and coordinator on statewide programs on issues of mutual interest and concern in the state of Connecticut and Israel.