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# **THE CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR SMALLER MANUFACTURERS**

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**Opposing Senate Bill 17 An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and  
the Expansion of Healthcare Coverage**  
Before the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate  
February 3, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Randy Collins and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Coalition for Smaller Manufacturers (CCSM). CCSM is comprised of the Smaller Manufacturer's Association of Waterbury (SMA), the New Haven Manufacturer's Association (NHMA) and METal of Bridgeport and collectively represents over 300 companies and more than 10,000 employees.

**CCSM strongly opposes SB 17 AAC Wellness Programs and the Expansion of Healthcare Coverage.** While the goal of this bill is laudable it adds multiple new mandates upon Connecticut's manufacturing and business community. In these hard economic times the margin between keeping a business open and viable and being forced to reduce ones workforce or close completely is getting smaller and smaller. Connecticut's manufacturer's simply cannot afford another insurance mandate, cannot absorb another increase in the already high cost of doing business here in Connecticut.

Many of our member companies recently saw their insurance premiums increase by over 30% and they are left to wonder what the new bottom line cost will be if SB 17 is adopted. SB 17 adds an additional six new or expanded insurance mandates and there is no doubt that their inclusion will result in an increased cost to Connecticut's employers.

As small business owners we know our employees, we know their families and we want to provide the very best of benefits to them. We are also aware of the bottom line and we are close to it. These additional mandates and subsequent increase in cost they represent may simply make it too hard for our companies to stay in business, and continue to provide the jobs and benefits our workers enjoy. In these difficult economic times we ask you to please reject SB 17 and see it as another mandate, another increase to the cost of doing business here in Connecticut.

**Please oppose SB 17 AAC Wellness Programs and the Expansion of Healthcare Coverage.**