



**State of Connecticut**  
**OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**  
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**Testimony of Speaker of the House Christopher G. Donovan**  
**To the Insurance and Real Estate, Human Services and Public Health Committees**  
In support of **HB 6305**, *AAC Implementation of the Sustinet Plan*  
**February 14, 2011**

Good morning Representative Megna, Senator Crisco, Representative Tercyak, Senator Musto, Representative Ritter, Senator Stillman, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate, Human Services and Public Health Committees. Thank you all for coming together today for this joint hearing on several significant healthcare proposals.

**HB 6305, AAC Implementation of the Sustinet Plan**

This bill reflects the recommendations of the Sustinet Board of Directors, which were issued earlier this year pursuant to PA 09-148. I want to commend the 200-plus volunteer professionals who applied their expertise on various committees and task forces to create an implementation plan for Sustinet. These professionals included practitioners of primary care and nursing; representatives of labor, health information technology, and the actuarial sciences; employee health benefit providers; health economists; and advocates for health equity. The recommendations contained in this bill include:

- Implementing delivery system and payment reforms to move toward a more coordinated, patient-centered, evidenced-based approach to healthcare that improves quality and slows cost growth.
- Integrating these improvements first over publicly-administered health plans, including state employees and retirees, Medicaid and HUSKY beneficiaries to bring savings to taxpayers.
- Leveraging the power of existing state programs and federal dollars to provide a new health insurance choice for municipalities, private employers and households.

Sustinet builds on the strength of healthcare pooling to increase purchasing power, lower costs and expand access to people of all health histories. It will maximize the potential of federal reform, spend state healthcare dollars more efficiently, improve quality, and offer employees and families a new health insurance choice that reforms healthcare delivery and slows cost growth throughout the entire insurance market. According to Dr. Jonathan Gruber, of the MIT Department of Economics, these measures will save Connecticut taxpayers between \$226 million and \$277 million annually, beginning in 2014. If Sustinet's system and payment reforms succeed in slowing cost growth even 1% per year, the state budget will improve by \$355 million in 2014, with gains reaching more than \$500 million a year starting in 2019. This proposal will help Connecticut families and our state budget.

I urge the committees to support this important proposal as well as **HB 6308**, *AA Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership*; **HB 6323**, *AA Making Conforming Changes to the Insurance Statutes Pursuant to the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*; and **HB 6322**, *AAC State Prescription Drug Purchasing*, for which I have submitted separate testimony.