

Testimony of Tom Swan

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FTIR

Testimony on HB 5013

Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 14, 2012

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG) with over 20,000 dues paying member families. I want to thank you for acknowledging the shortcomings of Connecticut's Health Insurance Exchange. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act needs to be done correctly and the lack of consumer representation on our Board is clearly the wrong way.

Proposed federal regulations say that the Exchange Boards should have a majority consumer representation. Even with the changes in proposed in HB 5013 we would fall far short of that. In addition, the effective date of July is inadequate. Changes need to happen immediately before too many large decisions are made.

While we agree with giving the Health Care Advocate a vote on the exchange we believe that there needs to be four consumer positions added and we would recommend that they be appointed by the Sustinet Cabinet.

Furthermore, it needs to be made clear that the office of State Ethics has the authority to enforce our Ethics laws and the exchange legislation. Additionally, it needs to be made clear that contractors are subject to Ethics and FOIA laws. In addition, they should not be able to charge additional fees or dues to join and should not have any additional lobbying interests at the legislature.