

TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 3/21/12

Good morning! My name is David Nelson and I am a retired minister living in Mansfield, Connecticut. I have been working for affordable, universal health care

in Connecticut for the past six years. I am here to speak on behalf of a Basic Health Plan for Connecticut. This Plan, an opportunity for Connecticut under the

federal Affordable Health Care Act, will provide affordable health insurance to 75,000 residents just above the HUSKY income limit who must now do without insurance or are underinsured. The standards of this Plan should be the same as Medicaid. The federal government will pay for this insurance. It will cost Connecticut nothing.

This is a step in the direction Connecticut needs to go to provide affordable, universal health care for all of its citizens, rich or poor. Although my own health care is provided by Medicare, my income would qualify me for the Basic Health Plan were I not over age 65. Consequently, I know how important this coverage is for those in this income range. Even so, I remain underinsured because I can afford only a high deductible Medigap policy which provides for expenses not covered by Medicare only when they exceed a \$2,000 limit.

What we need in Connecticut is a universal, single payer plan such as that of nearly all other developed countries, which covers everyone and is administered by one entity. Every step we take in that direction is positive, so I hope this Committee will approve a Basic Health Plan for Connecticut.

Thank you!

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