



CONNECTICUT
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
MARCH 7, 2012

My name is Eric George and I am Associate Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

While the federal government has passed health care reform and Connecticut has begun the process of establishing its federally-required health insurance exchange, more still needs to be done to lower costs and more needs to be done to improve the health of our citizens. Employers find health care costs rising faster than other input costs. Some providers are unable to generate sufficient patient revenue to cover costs. Some patients cannot get timely access to optimal care. And too many individuals remain without health insurance, engage in unhealthy behaviors and live in unhealthy environments.

For the business community, the issues of health care quality, cost and access are critical. After numerous years of double-digit and near-double-digit increases, health insurance has quickly become a product that many people and companies find they can no longer afford. In addition, the cost of health care directly affects businesses' ability to create new jobs.

Therefore, CBIA asks this committee to support **HB 5038, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING AN ALL-PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE PROGRAM**. Healthcare-related data transparency is critical for consumers and physicians to make the best informed health-related decisions. It provides them with the tools they need to compare quality outcomes and cost implications.

HB 5038 advances the openness of healthcare data transparency, and we would be happy to work with the Committee on this initiative throughout the rest of the legislative process.

Again, please support **HB 5038** and thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments on this legislation. I look forward to working with you on this and other issues related to the reforming Connecticut's healthcare system.