

**INDEPENDENT
INSURANCE AGENTS OF
CONNECTICUT, INC.**

30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109
(860) 563-1950 (800) 842-2208
FAX (860) 257-9981

FTR



Warren C. Ruppap
President

February 5, 2013

**Testimony of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut
in Favor of Raised Bill 812
An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Insurance Board of Directors**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Warren Ruppap and I am President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut. The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut is a trade association which has been located in Connecticut and has represented independent agents for 114 years. IIAAC currently represents more than 400 member agencies and their associates as well as their 3500-plus employees. I come to you today to speak in favor of Raised Bill 812.

Raised Bill 812 provides for the appointment by the Governor of an active insurance producer to be a member of the board of directors of The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange. The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut supports this proposal as the appointment of a trained, licensed and experienced producer on the board will provide an additional perspective in the decision process of the board. The importance of diversity on this board is clear. The importance of expertise in the insurance business is also clear. Effective health care reform will and does take the ideas, experience and professionalism of all involved. Licensed insurance producers are engaged in the everyday process of providing insurance products to Connecticut consumers. The licensed insurance producer is the Trusted Choice of the consumer. The development of the insurance exchange relies on individuals that understand the complexities of health care. The appointment of an insurance producer to the board of The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange is an important addition as that person will assist in the decisions that are made to provide health insurance to the residents of Connecticut.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut urges the committee to support Raised Bill 812.