



Quality is Our Bottom Line

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**Insurance Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 26, 2013**

**Connecticut Association of Health Plans
Testimony in Opposition to**

SB 957 AA Establishing a Health Insurance Advisory Council

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans has significant concerns with respect to passage of SB 957 An Act Establishing a Health Insurance Advisory Council. While we appreciate the bill's recognition of health insurers as important members of the Council's constituency, we have sincere reservations about creating yet another advisory council particularly when we have statutorily charged the Insurance Department and the Exchange Board with many of the elements contained herein representing at best a duplication of charges and expenses and at worst a potential impediment to the implementation of health care reform as emerging issues become politicized.

While Connecticut's health plans invite and welcome a continued dialogue from consumers and other stakeholders, we need to focus our time, attention and efforts at present on successful implementation of health care reform and the associated changes being made both in and outside of the Exchange. There are multiple advisory committees established as part of the Exchange process, likewise there are large advisory Councils and subcommittee's associated with the Medicaid program and in addition, the Department of Insurance already has the tools it needs to solicit outside input regarding rate reviews and other performance standards.

We hope the Committee will recognize the importance of directing valuable resources where they are needed most at this point in time and not move forward with SB 957.

Thank you for your consideration.