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Insurance Committee Public Hearing: 1/31/13

SB 596 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE.

The Connecticut Center for Patient Safety is dedicated to promoting the rights of Connecticut's healthcare consumers and medical patients. We SUPPORT Senate Bill 596, and we respectfully request the Insurance & Real Estate Committee to approve this legislation.

Many Connecticut consumers are depending upon the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange professionals to help consumers obtain high-quality and dependable health insurance coverage for themselves and their families. It only makes sense that the Exchange professionals -- as part of their responsibilities -- should negotiate fair premiums with health carriers who are offering to provide qualified health plans through the Exchange.

It's our understanding that the Massachusetts Exchange negotiates premiums with health carriers on behalf of Massachusetts consumers, and these negotiations have resulted in fair insurance premiums.

Here in Connecticut, the estimates show that as many as 250,000 – 300,000 consumers will enroll in insurance plans through the Exchange. That is a lot of consumer buying power that will only benefit from negotiation. After all, negotiation is one of the hallmarks of our economic system.

Thank you for your support of SB 596.

Jean Rexford, Executive Director

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