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Concerning H.B. 5488 AAC Health Insurance for Probate Court Personnel

March 17, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of *H.B. 5488 An Act Concerning Health Insurance for Probate Court Personnel.*

Probate court judges and employees receive their health care coverage through the state employee health care plan administered by my office. Under current law, the Probate Court Administration fund covers 100% of the state share of health care premiums for individual coverage, but only 50% of the additional premium cost for employee plus 1 or family coverage. As a result, probate court judges and employees face a significant financial burden when paying for health care coverage for their spouse or family.

For example, in fiscal year 2014, a probate court employee selecting the Anthem POS family plan would pay $578 in monthly premiums, $271 more in monthly premiums than a state employee. Meanwhile, a probate court employee selecting individual coverage would pay the same rate as a state employee, $75.46.

This legislation will change the premium structure for probate court judges and employees so that it mirrors that of other state employees. The result will be significant savings for those who require spousal or family coverage.

I support this bill as a matter of fairness. A judge or employee should not be asked to pay hundreds more for health insurance just because he or she has a spouse or family. Under the new calculation, premium share for covering a spouse or a family under the plan will still cost more, but not as significantly.

My office has worked closely with probate court staff on this legislation and will be able to easily administer the changes should it pass.

I urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.