Testimony
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Labor and Public Employees Committee
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The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *opposes* **HB-5451: An Act Concerning Health Care Pooling.**

Connecticut's small towns share concerns about rising healthcare costs and believe in the importance of accessibility of information so that all parties may make informed decisions. However, this bill achieves this goal at the expense of towns by imposing a new mandate upon municipalities. Municipalities would be required to annually report extensive information about group health plans to the state comptroller. The costs associated with this level of reporting would be a major burden placed on towns' already strapped budgets.

COST also has concerns about towns preserving the privacy of their employees under this bill. Along with the annual reporting requirement to the Comptroller, municipal employers would be required to provide claim information to employee bargaining representatives. COST is concerned that if it releases this information, in smaller group sizes, it would be fairly easy to tie specific claims to individual employees thus undermining an employee's right to privacy.

Therefore, COST urges *opposition* to **HB-5451: An Act Concerning Health Care Pooling.**

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