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Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
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Concerning
SB 198 AAC the Claims Data Provided to Certain Employers

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Kelly and Representative Sampson:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on *Senate Bill 198 An Act Concerning the Claims Data Provided to Certain Employers*.

This bill would clarify the right of non-state public employers and representatives for employee bargaining units to receive all of the data required to process a quote for health care coverage either through the Connecticut Partnership Plan or elsewhere in the open market. In addition, it will provide a time frame on the delivery of the data to enable a timely quote.

Originally passed in 2011, Section 38a-513f of the Connecticut General Statutes was designed to ensure that municipalities, boards of education and other non-state public employers would be able to access their health claims data information from their current health insurer or administrator. This information includes utilization data, claims paid, premiums paid and the number of insureds by coverage tier. The statute also gives representatives of employee bargaining units the right to this information so that they can independently evaluate the group's health care options.

However, through its administration of the Connecticut Partnership Plan, my office has seen first hand how the current statute can limit the ability of non-state public employers and employee bargaining units to fully explore all of their health-care options. We received inquiries from both employee bargaining units and non-state public employers, which were unable to access all of the information necessary to receive comprehensive quotes. The reason for this is the statute is ambiguous on the data they have the right to access. Further, the law provides no time frame within which any data must be delivered, often preventing a timely quote to be given.

The cost of employee health care benefits has risen drastically over the last decade, but health care remains an essential benefit for employees. In this environment, providing

access to all of the required information will allow non-state public employers and their employee bargaining units to analyze their health care options and receive competitive quotes for coverage in a reasonable time frame.

This bill preserves the intent of the original law and I thank the committee for its consideration.