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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
HOME: (203) 879-3200
rob.sampson@housegop.ct.gov

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**Insurance & Real Estate Committee Meeting
Testimony in Support of,**

House Bill Number 5194, An Act Requiring the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to Report Additional Data

Good Afternoon, Chairman Crisco, Chairman Megna, Vice Chairwoman Hartley, Vice Chairman Zoni, Ranking Member Kelly, and distinguished members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, I would like to thank the Committee for raising H.B. 5194, An Act Requiring the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to Report Additional Data.

The purpose of this legislation is to require the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange board of directors to report additional data in its quarterly reports to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health, human services, and insurance. In so doing, this bill seeks to require greater transparency which will allow us to better measure the effectiveness of the health insurance exchange in our state.

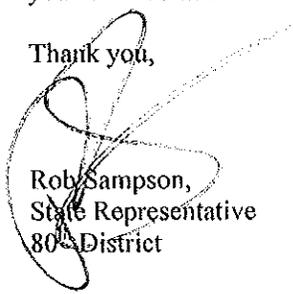
The Affordable Care Act was created under the auspices of providing more affordable insurance to all and an opportunity for those not insured to be insured. Nationally, there is great consternation over the President's unfulfilled promises, rising premiums, and declining availability of quality healthcare.

Therefore, it is imperative that we have fair and comprehensive data on how Obamacare is working here in our state. We need to know who is enrolling, whether they are enrolling in qualified health plans or merely signing up for Medicaid. We need to know if these enrollees were previously insured, what the source of that insurance is, and to what extent our hardworking taxpayers are being asked to continue to subsidize what is clearly a failed policy. Some of this information is currently provided, but the veracity of the data must be questioned when the report ignores the criteria that had been set forth in projections. I am referring of course to the repeated claims about "record numbers" of enrollees when the actual number of enrollees is a fraction of projections, and is inflated for political reasons to mislead by including Medicaid enrollees not in the original prognostications. There is also the question of counting enrollees who may have not actually paid a premium.

Thus far, however, the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange has not been completely forthcoming with this crucial information. Access Health has continuously misstated their success by including Medicaid signups, particularly through the Department of Social Services. This deliberate misinformation simply clouds our understanding of the true statistics and inhibits our ability to make much needed improvements. Without substantive demands by the legislature, we will not be able to gauge the success of the program in a manner that is both fair and accurate.

Regardless of our individual opinions of the Affordable Care Act, it is my hope that we can come together on a bi-partisan basis in support of H.B. 5194 to ensure the Health Insurance Exchange is properly regulated so that it can best serve the residents of Connecticut. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve transparency. Once again, thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,



Rob Sampson,
State Representative
80th District