



Written Testimony in support of

SB 751 AN ACT REQUIRING THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE TO POST PROVIDER NETWORK INFORMATION ON ITS INTERNET WEB SITE

Good Afternoon Senator Crisco, Rep Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. I am Sharon Barrett, M.D., a board certified dermatologist practicing in Clinton, CT. I am here to represent the thousands of physicians and physicians in training who are in the state medical society and the over 1000 physicians in the medical specialties of Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Otolaryngology and Urology. On behalf of this group of dedicated physicians, we thank this committee for bringing this important issue of reporting provider network information on the insurance exchange to public hearing.

Over the past few years our organizations have struggled with terminations by Connecticut insurers that have left provider networks grossly inadequate. In fact, several bills on "network adequacy" have been proposed in 2015 and are currently being considered by this committee. These bills require networks to provide more transparency on the types and numbers of providers in their networks and to provide the credentials of these providers to consumers through the consumer report card administrated by the Department of Insurance. Even after many providers were recently terminated by an insurer, their names remained on the network's list of participating providers, giving the impression to the public that they could see these physicians, when in fact, they could not. Many of these misled patients were upset and even angry when they were ultimately notified that they would need to seek their medical care elsewhere.

Simply stated, patients in this state must be offered accurate and up-to-date information about provider participation in the insurance plan they are either considering, or enrolled in.

SB 751 would identify what type and how many of these providers are currently in their Health Insurance Exchange network by geographic regions at the time of enrollment. It should be updated monthly to remain current in a searchable online format, since the internet has become the common source for most consumers locate information about the Exchanges.

To incorporate these clarifications, we request consideration for amending line 20 of SB 751 to read as follows:

"20 not limited to, accurate and current listings of the health care providers, provider's credentials and categorization of providers by specialty and geographic location at the time of enrollment, which is easily searchable online and updated monthly to reflect a current and accurate status of network providers,

21 in each qualified health plan's network... "

Patients depend on correct and up-to-date listings of provider networks so that they can make critical decisions for themselves and their families. Many will change their healthcare insurance plans just to ensure that certain doctors can remain their caregivers – physicians whom they trust, respect, and listen to. SB 751 will ensure that these important physician-patient relationships can be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration and if there are any questions please contact us at Phone: 860-567-3787,

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