



Insurance Committee Public Hearing
Tuesday, February 24, 2015

**Testimony in opposition to SB 754 AA Limiting the Charging of Assessments or User Fees
by the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.**

Good afternoon. My name is Janice Perkins, Director of Government Relations for ConnectiCare, and I'm here today on behalf of ConnectiCare Inc. in opposition to SB 754 AA Limiting the Charging of Assessments or User Fees by the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.

As you may know, ConnectiCare is a local health plan with approximately 300,000 members and 800 employees all located in Farmington. We currently offer individual, small and large group commercial plans as well as Medicare Advantage and Exchange individual plans. We're pleased to be a part of Connecticut's Exchange program and currently have approximately 40,000 members in that market.

SB 754, if passed, would be extremely detrimental for ConnectiCare in that it would shift the burden of the \$35 million dollar assessment that is currently levied across all plans for purposes of funding the Exchange to just those plans that participate in the Exchange. While we believe more generally that Exchange functions should be supported by the state as a public service, to the extent there must be an assessment it should be as broad as possible so as not to undermine the financials of any particular entity. Likewise, limiting the assessment to only Qualified Health Plans may have the unintended consequence of discouraging plan participation which we would argue does a disservice to Connecticut's consumers in terms of choice.

We look forward to a continued partnership with the state through our participation in the Exchange and we hope that you will support us by rejecting SB 754.