



**City of New London**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Testimony of Daryl Justin Finizio, Mayor, City of New London, on H.B. No. 6785 (Raised)  
**AN ACT CONCERNING COOPERATIVE HEALTHCARE ARRANGEMENTS** before the Labor and  
Public Employees Committee, Feb. 26, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of expanding access to the state employee health insurance plan to municipal employees.

In New London, we've already saved money, reduced our risk and provided excellent health insurance to our employees by joining CT Partnership Plan. This legislation has the potential to go even further, driving down costs by widening the insurance pool and allowing more municipalities to take greater advantage of group-purchasing discounts. Connecticut municipalities already do something similar when we jointly buy salt, sand and copiers. It makes sense to do this with health insurance, too.

By allowing municipalities a way to provide cheaper, better health care coverage for our valued employees, this legislation would also take away one of the biggest obstacles municipalities face during labor negotiations. It would allow us to help the people who plow our streets, teach our children and keep our cities safe--and it would help our taxpayers, too. In fact, this legislation could save New London taxpayers approximately \$150,000.

It's important to understand that opting into the state health insurance plan would be voluntary on all sides. It would provide options but no mandates. Municipalities and employees would both have to agree that it's in their best interests, and the State would reserve the right to reject any group which it deems too risky or expensive.

Properly written, this legislation could allow everyone involved to win: more Connecticut residents would have better health insurance, Connecticut taxpayers would get more bang for their bucks, and--in a time when funding is tight across the board--you would have a rare opportunity to give people something they desperately want without any increase to the bottom line.

Again, I urge you to open the state employee health care program to non-state public employees. Thank you for your time.