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Testimony of Matthew Brokman
Legislative and Political Representative, Council 4 AFSCME
Labor & Public Employees Committee Hearing
SB 913: AAC Health Care Data Reporting
February 26, 2015

Good afternoon, Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor Committee. My name is Matthew Brokman. I am a Legislative and Political Representative of Council 4 AFSCME. Our union represents 32,000 public service workers.

Council 4 AFSCME is in support of SB 913: An Act Concerning Health Care Data Reporting.

When we go to the bargaining table, we do so to work cooperatively with management to settle on a contract agreement that maintains public services and provides for family supporting jobs. The biggest economic issue at the table is health insurance. As costs increase, too often the default solution is to shift these costs onto plan participants – driving patients away from care.

We believe that there are other solutions available that involve reducing costs by investing in quality care. One such solution is the Connecticut Partnership Plan. That program can be improved in many ways – true municipal health insurance pooling is one way. Taking the politics out of submitting claims data to the State Comptroller is another.

By requiring health care data to be reported to the Comptroller, this bill will provide the state and municipalities with needed information to better analyze what is driving health insurance costs so we can find win-win solutions.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.