



**TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW BROKMAN, COUNCIL 4 AFSCME**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 5324: AAC THE DEFINITION OF “URGENT CARE CLINIC”  
AND THE PROVISION OF CHARITY CARE**

**Public Health Committee  
February 23, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Matthew Brokman. I am a Legislative and Political Representative of Council 4 AFSCME. On behalf of the 32,000 public service employees we represent, I want to thank Representative Pat Dillon for proposing **HB 5324: An Act Considering the Definition of “Urgent Care Clinic” and the Provision of Charity Care** and thank the Public Health Committee for holding this public hearing.

As a representative of state employees, we are continually looking at how our state spends resources on health care to ensure that we are investing in improving the health of our members and Connecticut residents generally.

Over the past few years, we have seen a significant number of “urgent care clinics” sprout up. These clinics can play a vital role in our health care system. As an option between the retail-based minute clinics and hospital-based emergency rooms, urgent care clinics fill an important gap. However, their growth also underscores an issue that we keep coming across as a state – how do the various pieces of our health care system fit together to ensure residents have access to affordable and quality care? We believe the state needs to take a real examination of the money spent on health care and how we can use those resources to shape a better system.

Several states, including New York, are exploring regulations to ensure that urgent care clinics fit properly into their state’s health care system. And we believe that this same discussion is necessary in Connecticut. According to a New York Times report last year, since 2008, urgent care clinics have received over \$2.3 billion in funding from private equity companies as several chains have expanded. A definition of “urgent care clinic” will ensure that there is a level playing field for these clinics to protect health care consumers and taxpayers.