



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY: EAST

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The Rev. Joshua Pawelek  
*Minister*

March 3, 2016

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am the Rev. Josh Pawelek, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester, and a resident of Glastonbury. I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 281, "An Act Requiring Site-Neutral Reimbursement Policies in Contracts Between Health Carriers and Health Care Providers."

As one who has worked for the past decade as a leader in Connecticut's Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Healthcare, I am convinced that the goal of providing affordable, accessible, quality health care to all Connecticut residents requires us now to promote and support a wide variety of updates and adjustments to the existing system. Site neutral reimbursement policies are one such desperately needed update. Under the current system, health care consumers are often mystified by their medical bills. How can the price of a specific medical procedure vary so drastically from site to site—even within the same hospital conglomerate? It makes no sense. It injects enormous uncertainty, not to mention stress, into the process of obtaining health care. In effect, it undermines the mission of our hospitals, which is to support healthy outcomes for patients.

The bottom line is that non-neutral reimbursement policies contribute to rising health care costs and incentivize profit-making over consumer health needs. Site neutral pricing, even under the limited standards presented in SB 281, will bring much-needed transparency, consistency and stability to the health care market place. Site neutral reimbursement policies are one adjustment we can afford to make to our health care system now. Please support SB 281.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Josh Pawelek



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