

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2017 7:14 PM
To: INSTestimony
Subject: Testimony Hartford Healthcare Blue Cross dispute.

Importance: High

Dear Sirs:

I am a board certified primary care doctor from Norwich Ct. Below is a letter that I wrote that appeared in the Norwich Bulletin regarding this matter. .. In addition to the letter which expresses some of my opinion, I also feel it is absolutely necessary that hospitals continue to provide healthcare to patient's during any contract negotiations or if that fails, that medical care continues to be provided while the parties await arbitration. According to reports ,in the case of Blue Cross and Hartford Healthcare , Blue Cross offered a 3% increase for any care provided after the contract expired on Sept 30, 2017, while agreeing to continue to negotiate. However, Hartford Healthcare rejected this and instead patient care was disrupted. The final contract can always be made retroactive to the day the previous contract ended, as it was in this case.. I regret I cannot attend the hearing on tuesday but hope you will take my views into consideration .

Letter to the Editor Norwich Bulletin November 10th 2017
Hartford Healthcare Blue Cross Dispute

Physicians, such as myself, who are not employed by Hartford Healthcare are still Blue Cross in network providers. However, the present dispute between Hartford Healthcare, (which includes Backus Hospital), and Anthem Blue Cross has forced many patients to seek care at facilities which are not part of the Hartford Healthcare system, which is presently out of network. It is my opinion that a settlement is overdue. I would recommend a baseball type arbitration to settle the dispute. In this type of arbitration, each party presents their case to the arbitrator. The arbitrator will then choose one of the plans submitted by each party as the contract. If the involved parties refuse to voluntarily agree to arbitration, then I would hope our legislators on the federal and/or state level would make arbitration involving healthcare institutions and health insurance companies a law when a contract dispute exists.. Previously , similar disputes have occurred between United Healthcare, Blue Cross, and Hartford Healthcare.

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