

SENATOR CATHY OSTEN

Nineteenth District

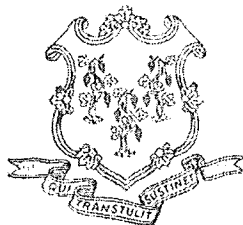
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Tel. 860-240-0579

Toll-free 1-800-842-1420

www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov



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November 28, 2017

LOB 2C 12:00 PM

Chairman Larson, Chairman Scanlon, Chairman Kelly, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, thank you for holding this public hearing to examine the myriad of issues that led to, and exacerbated, the most recent contract dispute between Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield and Hartford Healthcare. I particularly want to express my gratitude to the leadership of this committee for convening today's hearing into this matter, which severely impacted the residents in my district and throughout Connecticut for weeks and months.

For the record, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague.

Like you, I have heard from many of my constituents regarding the negative impact this protracted contract dispute had on the access to care. While these parties remain seemingly deadlocked, our constituents lacked access to necessary and life sustaining medical care. Seniors in my district, in particular, received letters informing them that they could no longer see their primary care physician or access services at their local hospital; doctors and institutions that they have known for years (and have grown comfortable with) were suddenly no longer available. You can well imagine how upsetting this might be. As evidenced by the volume of calls and e-mails from affected constituents received by my office, the inability of these parties to resolve their differences in a timely manner during this most recent dispute hurts patients/policyholders and demands legislative review and ultimately, action.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I look forward to working with the leadership and members of this committee on this critically important public health issue.