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From: [REDACTED]
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To: INSTestimony
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To Whom It May Concern:

Even though I was impacted medically and financially by this outrageous conduct by both entities, there are others whose testimony medically is far more compelling and heartbreaking, so I will focus on one fact, which is this has to be a learning experience and it cannot be allowed to happen again.

My testimony concerns the fact that for 30 years my husband was a municipal employee. Municipal employees are not allowed to strike. This means that within that 30 year period, my husband regularly worked without a contract i.e. he worked being paid under an old contract. I could be wrong, but it was always my understanding that state law prevented municipal employees from striking. My understanding has always been that this is so kids continue to be taught, snow continues to be plowed, real estate transactions continue to be processed, garbage continues to be collected, and so on, without disruption. When the contract was settled, if retroactive pay was agreed upon, he received retroactive pay. But services continued to be provided to taxpayers throughout the negotiations.

It is my understanding that HHC was given the option of continuing to provide medical care under their old contract with Anthem and they refused. This is where they lost my support and God knows I have no love for Anthem. To jeopardize people's health and cause stress of epic proportions to patients and their families - this can't happen again. And the State of Connecticut ALLOWED the barbaric situation where people were paying good money for insurance that was pretty much useless by not intervening and mandating a short term solution. Now is the opportunity for a long term solution.

Providers must NOT be allowed to unilaterally decide not to accept certain health insurance because they showed no mercy. Now is the time to show no mercy to them and their brethren medical providers, because others will likely be emboldened to do exactly the same thing when their contracts are expired. A law must be passed mandating that providers continue to provide medical services under the same pricing and conditions as existed prior to the expiration of their contract. We can no longer trust them to do the right thing. They have demonstrated they are not capable of this. Insurance companies must likewise be prohibited from doing anything that deprives patients of the medical care for which they pay dearly.

I have not felt this strongly about an issue since the state income tax was enacted. I never forgot who voted for and against that travesty, and I voted accordingly for years. I will be doing the same with this issue.

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