



Testimony of Ted Doolittle  
Office of the Healthcare Advocate  
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
In Support of HB 5385  
March 6, 2018

Good afternoon, Senator Larson, Senator Kelly, Representative Scanlon, Representative Sampson, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. For the record, I am Ted Doolittle, Healthcare Advocate. The Office of the Healthcare Advocate (“OHA”) is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on HB 5385, An Act Establishing A Working Group To Study Health Insurance Premium Rate Increases and Develop Recommendations To Mitigate Such Increases. This important initiative requires that key stakeholders engaged in the development of healthcare policy in the state collaborate to develop a series of recommendations to address the financial impact of our state’s healthcare system, identify means of meaningful collaboration and promote new, innovative models of care delivery and payment reform.

While several complimentary initiatives are currently underway, this group may provide unique insights into the challenges of our healthcare system that, when applied with the other efforts being considered, may result in much greater stakeholder engagement and success. My only concern is that OHA, while having two consumer appointments to the group, would be unable to participate in this effort, bringing the years of direct consumer advocacy and experiences to bear as novel approaches towards reform are considered.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this testimony for this important bill. If you have any questions concerning our position on this issue, please feel free to contact me at [Ted.Doolittle@ct.gov](mailto:Ted.Doolittle@ct.gov).