



Testimony of Access Health CT
Before the
Connecticut General Assembly Insurance & Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019

Proposed Senate Bill 322: AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

Good Afternoon Chairmen Lesser and Scanlon, Ranking Members Kelly and Pavalock-D'Amato, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is James Michel, CEO of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, doing business as Access Health CT.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to **Proposed Senate Bill 322: An Act Concerning the Board of Directors of The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange**.

Access Health CT is opposed to this bill as it seeks to apply term limits to appointed members of AHCT's Board of Directors. This restriction has not been imposed on other quasi-public agencies of the State of Connecticut. Finding qualified individuals to serve on the AHCT Board can be a challenge due to statutory restrictions on who may serve as a member of the Board, along with the subject matter expertise requirements. AHCT has experienced challenges in the past with open appointments not being made on its Board. It is important for AHCT to have continuity with its Board of Directors to support its operations, and have the subject matter knowledge regarding the Exchange's operation.

Senate Bill 322 also wants to require that all members of such board have insurance experience. Current legislation **CGA §38a-1081(b)(A)** already specifies the particular subject matter knowledge required for each appointment of the executive and legislative branches of government. Of the eight executive and legislative appointments, all but one require some industry expertise, one of appointment is more consumer advocate focused than insurance industry knowledge focused.

Access Health CT respectfully **opposes** Senate Bill 322: An Act Concerning the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.