



February 9, 2021

**To:** Members of Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

**From:** Green Village Initiative, Bridgeport, CT

**Re:** S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care In Connecticut.

Following the lead of the healthcare advocates of CT Campaign for Affordable Healthcare as well as Bridgeport and statewide community activists and advocates, who believe the Committee should pass S.B. No. 842 to expand health care coverage and options for individuals and small businesses in Connecticut, Green Village Initiative asks the Committee to pass S.B. 842, An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut.

It is incumbent on lawmakers to expand health coverage options that could jumpstart our economy, keep workers throughout the food economy and their families safe by reducing healthcare costs during this unprecedented time of pandemic and think ahead for future generations health in our state.

Our current system ensures that healthcare is a privilege of a few, rather than a right for all.

Green Village Initiative is a small nonprofit working in urban agriculture in our state, our organization is part of the 72% of small businesses that would greatly appreciate the ability to decide between public option health coverage and private health coverage plans for our team of young professionals early in our careers who have or will start families in the state in the next decade. The burden of navigating private health care options often falls on small organization staff and the pricing ties our hands in terms of expanding coverage for all of our employees.

Our nonprofit works closely with and is made up of black and brown farmers and young professionals. We are invested in our own and our community's growth, development, leadership, and vision for the future and this includes access to affordable healthcare for small nonprofits like our own, for food businesses our work helps incubate, and especially for black, brown, and people of color owned businesses and families, as well as our undocumented communities throughout our state. Healthcare is a racial justice issue that we must address today to ensure that living in our state is viable, affordable, and safe over the coming decades.

We stand alongside our partners in believing the Committee seeks a stronger, more resilient, safer Connecticut and that that begins with supportive policy that makes healthcare accessible and affordable. Now is the time to adopt measures that can protect our state and put health first with expanded care and options for Connecticut families and businesses.

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 842 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellie Angerame', written in a cursive style.

**Ellie Angerame**  
Executive Director