



**Testimony of
John Brady
Vice President, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO**

**Insurance & Real Estate Committee
February 9, 2021**

S.B. 842 An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut

My name is John Brady. I am a Registered Nurse and the Executive Vice President of AFT Connecticut, a union of 30,000 members in Healthcare, Education and Public Service. I write to you today in support of **S.B. 842, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**

Too many of Connecticut's residents are suffering from runaway healthcare costs due to high premiums and high deductibles. Too often our residents must decide between healthcare, food and rent. This should not be the case and we should not tolerate it. Medical debt is not only a burden on our residents, but also an economic burden on the state's economy. Additionally, small businesses and nonprofits are made to compete on an unequal playing field as small group insurance plan costs can be prohibitive.

This bill would offer high quality healthcare at an affordable price, without high deductibles, by leveraging the power of the State of Connecticut. It would add a measure of stability to the marketplace and allow more Connecticut residents access to insurance that they could actually use, instead of having insurance which they cannot afford (due to high premiums) and then cannot afford to use (due to high deductibles). It would help to equalize the playing field for small businesses and nonprofits, which are the economic drivers of our economy and vital to so many of our needed services.

In my mind this legislation should have unanimous support. It is not only in the best interest of the people of our state, but it is business friendly, as it would greatly help nonprofits and small businesses, and thereby encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, two of the chief drivers of our economy.

I urge you to support and pass **S.B. 842, AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**