

Dear Members of Insurance and Real Estate of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Rob De Carli, I have lived in Southbury CT my whole life. I work as a technical recruiter and am writing to you in support of S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care In Connecticut.

S.B. 842 will make health care equitable, dependable, and affordable by creating new public options for health insurance in our state at a time when it is sorely needed. As we all know, the pandemic has caused a serious downturn in the economy with many losing their jobs. Some industries have been hurt more severely than others, for example nearly every industry was negatively affected by the pandemic but due to the drop off in air travel (Air travel is down 67% when compared to 2019) the aviation industry has seen the last 20 years of growth eliminated nearly over night according to a study by Circium, an air travel data analytics company. This has led to layoffs at even large stable companies in Connecticut such as Pratt and Whitney. With the loss in employment many of these residents also lose the health coverage they relied on during the worse health crisis in a century. When people without insurance cannot pay for their care, hospitals and insurance companies pass the cost along to everyone. This proposal ensures that people have affordable health insurance and are able to get the medical treatment they need, which will bring down costs.

I can tell you from my experience working as a recruiter that the cost of living is a big factor when people are deciding to relocate for work. Many people will not consider relocating to states in the north east due to the cost of living and many who leave our state leave due to the cost of living, typically for lower cost states. Health care costs are a key driver of Connecticut's high cost-of-living. Reducing health care expenses -- especially for working- and middle-class residents -- will expand the state's economy and ease the financial burden on families at a time when they need it most.

A public option addresses the urgent crisis of affordability and dependability in this pandemic. There is an ongoing health care emergency that demands urgent action. It's critical that we expand health care coverage and make dependable health care more affordable in the face of a deadly pandemic, especially with so many workers losing their jobs and health coverage. I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers of all parties to support S.B. 842 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Thank you for your time,

Robert De Carli

Southbury resident