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Dear Chairs, Lesser and Woods and Ranking Members Hwang and Pavalock-D'Amato,

On behalf of the New England Tire & Service Association (NETSA), I am here to urge you to reject SB 842. This bill would be catastrophic to our members, many of which are small businesses in the state of Connecticut. NETSA consists of businesses that perform vehicle service, maintenance, and repair.

The members of the New England Tire & Service Association are dedicated to ensuring that vehicles last longer, perform better, and keep our drivers safe. We also seek to advocate for the welfare of our employees who help us achieve these goals. Many of our local members take extra care of their employees by providing health insurance for them and their families.

Therefore, NETSA is opposed to SB 842, which would levy a tax on any health insurance purchased through the fully insured market, where many small businesses, like the ones we represent, buy health insurance for their employees and families. If SB 842 were to pass, health insurance costs would go up, and to offset these additional costs, small businesses would either have to absorb the additional added taxes or unload them onto the employees themselves. Neither of these are good options, especially in an economy that is slowly recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Auto care workers protect us by keeping our vehicles up to standard. Our priority right now must be protecting them, their employees, and their families. This includes rejecting legislation, that while well intended, will raise the cost of their health care. A healthcare subsidy should not be provided through a tax that helps one part of the population at the expense of another.

Again, I urge you to reject SB 842 – this bill will only hurt, not help, small business owners and working-class families through Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Anthony DeSimone
Executive Director - NETSA

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