

Written Testimony Supporting SB 842: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT.

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, Senator Hwang, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and Distinguished Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Mary Doherty and I live in Southbury, CT. I write this testimony in support SB 842.

For too many people in our state and country, good healthcare is simply an idea – not a reality. For many of us healthcare is unaffordable, inaccessible, and often times of marginal quality. When it comes to our healthcare system, the concept of American exceptionalism is turned on its head: we have exceptionally costly care with exceptionally poor outcomes. It doesn't have to be this way, but it will continue to be this way until we find the political will to prioritize people's health and lives ahead of insurance company profits.

I support SB 842 because providing a public option to small businesses and individuals allows them to benefit from the knowledge and negotiating strength of our very capable CT Comptroller. Private insurance companies oppose a public option because they know it will cut into their profits and make them more accountable to the people (i.e. you and I) who purchase their product.

Let's stop being penny wise and pound foolish. Let's invest in quality, affordable, accessible healthcare for people now – healthier Americans will make a healthier America and cost us MUCH less money in the long run. Think of it: Healthcare as a human right in America. How exceptional!

Please vote yes on SB 842.

Thank you.

Mary Doherty, Southbury

H.D. 69

S.D. 32