

Statement in **SUPPORT** of S.B. 842, *A bill to make healthcare equitable, dependable and affordable by creating new public options for health insurance in Connecticut*

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

February 9, 2021

To the chairs and members of the Insurance Committee.

I am Amy Ewing of Stamford, CT. This statement represents my own personal views, which support the position of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG) to support this bill, S.B. 842, a bill to make healthcare equitable, dependable and affordable.

Healthcare in the US and in Connecticut itself is much more expensive – with no better quality – than in other developed countries in the world. It can easily bankrupt families.

Providing public options for small businesses and nonprofits – many of them struggling to get by – will allow them to provide affordable, high-quality health insurance to their employees.

S.B. 842 will also expand HUSKY to more working-class Connecticut families, including thousands of families of color that are currently disadvantaged in the current health care market.

In addition, the bill's provision of health care choices for undocumented people is not only compassionate but is also likely to save our state money in the long-run. Using hospitals for all healthcare is typically an undocumented person's only choice, and it's very expensive to provide.

We are in a healthcare crisis. Let's provide small businesses, nonprofits, working-class families and undocumented people access to equitable, dependable and affordable public health options for health insurance in Connecticut.

Please support S.B. 842

Thank you,

Amy Ewing

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