

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Public Hearing- 2/9/21

Testimony Against SB 842

Mr. Joseph Ferretti

Committee Chairs Senator Lesser and Representative Wood, Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock D'Amato and honorable committee members:

SB 842 is bad for small business and the working class in Connecticut. I am asking you and the other members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to reject this bill.

Local businesses and working individuals and families have a lot to lose if this proposal were to be accepted. Small businesses are already struggling to keep their doors open. SB 842 would place a tax on the health insurance costs for Connecticut small businesses, adding an unnecessary burden to the businesses that have supported our community through this terrible pandemic.

If employers do not pay the extra added taxes from this bill, individual employees and their family will be directly responsible. Making healthcare more expensive is the opposite of what we should be doing right now. People need their healthcare coverage now more than ever, for COVID testing treatment, among other health issues.

Not only would this policy be terrible for small businesses and working-class individuals, but it will have a negative effect on the Connecticut economy as a whole. Connecticut businesses will have less money to invest and will have a harder time growing their business. There is no telling how detrimental this tax could be to our economy.

Everyone deserves affordable and accessible health insurance. However, this policy is not the way to do it. SB 842 literally takes health care away from some, just to give it to others. This policy is not the right way to go about expanding access to health coverage. Please, do what's right for Connecticut and reject SB 842.

Thank you,

Joseph Ferretti