

**Testimony Against SB 842: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND  
HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**

Tom Figlar

Chairperson Senator Lesser and Chairperson Representative Wood, Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock- D'Amato, Vice Chairs Senator Anwar and Representative Comey, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

I stand before the committee today as a proud small business employee. I am fortunate to receive health insurance through my employer, and I understand the importance of expanding access to coverage during a global pandemic. However, I am shocked and disappointed that the committee would consider increasing taxes on small businesses and their healthcare, especially in our current climate.

Main Street has struggled this year more than most other sectors of our economy. Still, small businesses have done their best to keep their doors open and provide for their communities and employees. As legislators and chairs of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, you have seen firsthand the challenges small businesses and their employees face.

To help the economy recover, our state legislature should be considering policies that support our small business community and their employees, putting them on a path to relief. Unfortunately, this bill would do the opposite. By placing a tax on health insurance, costs will increase for both businesses and their employees and families, increasing financial strain on both or, worse, leading to fewer people receiving coverage.

During a time of economic hardships, budgets are already tight. Small businesses and their employees are only so resilient, and additional healthcare costs could be the straw that breaks the backbone of our economy. We need to make health care more accessible and affordable, but this proposal would do the opposite for working families in the state. I urge you to reject his new proposed tax on health insurance, which would only hurt small businesses across our state.

Please oppose SB 842.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tom Figlar