



14 Stanrod Ave.  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
(203) 597-7456  
[info@racce.net](mailto:info@racce.net)  
[www.racce.net](http://www.racce.net)

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 842, The Connecticut Public Options Proposal  
February 8, 2021**

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Robbie Goodrich. I live and work in Waterbury, CT. I am the Executive Director of a small grassroots organization called RACCE, we fight for racial justice in our schools. I am a father and a son. For years I have paid monthly premiums for health insurance that have ranged from \$300.00 to \$800.00 per month. The coverage has changed dramatically as has my options for primary care physicians, cost of co-pays, and out of network costs for the care I need. My inability to access high quality and affordable healthcare consistently has wreaked havoc in my life both financially and emotionally.

As a leader of a non-profit organization I have spent days, weeks, and months trying to raise funds or to win grant awards so that the folk who work with us can at least have the option of having healthcare. We simply don't have the financial flexibility to pay folk a living wage and offer them healthcare coverage without bankrupting our organization. This means we work long hours doing the dangerous work of Anti-Racist Education Activists and Advocates without knowing how it is our colleagues will be able to support their emotional welfare and get treatment for physical maladies after they become ill despite their efforts to fight for the lives of folk in our communities day and night. This is one way systems of oppression can kill us with impunity or bankrupt us. Is this fair and just?

Health care is a racial justice issue and access to affordable high quality care is a fundamental human right. Despite that tens of thousands of Connecticut residents struggle daily with decisions to either pay rent, pay for groceries, pay for transportation to and from work or getting the proper medical treatment for depression, diabetes, heart disease or getting their teeth cleaned or having the proper exams done to prevent diseases such as cancer. This is not fair and this is not just.

I must acknowledge the public health crisis caused by COVID-19 as a primary reason why a public option is not just good politics it's the moral as well as ethical decision to make.

These are only some of the reasons why you must support SB 842. This legislation saves lives. This legislation supports an expansion of economic stability. This legislation protects and preserves families.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Goodrich  
Executive Director  
RACCE  
[Rgoodrich@racce.net](mailto:Rgoodrich@racce.net)  
(203) 597-7456