

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to give testimony on SB842. I do not feel that the government should mandate a government or state run healthcare exclusively, that may impose fines against citizens or employers, if they don't have it or participate in state run plan.

I believe it is good to have choices available to each citizen and employer of Connecticut. The last time there was a mandated healthcare, it imposed fines on the citizens and employers, if they did not participate. We are in the middle of a depression, which means less people working and less money flowing in the community. I'm against anything that might impose fines or forces people or employers to get one type of healthcare plan. It makes them even more financially strapped. During a depression, which is exactly what we are in, there are no funds for rent, food, medicine, as well as other necessities to survive. In businesses in Connecticut an employer must make choices, pertaining to healthcare, on the costs without creating hardships on said company or employer. We have fewer employers due to the closing of such businesses due to pandemic.

I understand the State has the right to negotiate with State Unions, pertaining to health insurance for state employees. Such plans should have the option to have said plans negotiated. That is a given and should remain as such. The same should apply to municipalities throughout the state. They should have choices available to them to fit their financial needs during this difficult time.

There are places for both. But I'm against strictly having one program available for everyone. It is the American way to have choices.

The last time we had a government mandated program it did not work. As mentioned I'm totally against individuals being fined if they do not participate, like what was initiated in the past.

It's important for Connecticut citizens, employers to have choices and make their own decisions concerning their lives and the lives of their employees. If they can find a cheaper health plan, then they need to have that option. It's important to have healthcare, don't get me wrong. But in a depression not everyone can afford such or afford to have a state impose just one plan.

Each State is suffering financially too, as a result of the pandemic and lack of federal aid. Time to work together, both parties, not one party making the decisions because they may be in control or the majority. I'm tired of the bickering by both parties. I'm tired of the state making mandates which may not be beneficial for all individuals or businesses. Time for the legislative bodies, both parties, to be allowed to discuss and come to purposeful resolutions concerning the citizens, businesses, municipalities, etc. they represent within their perspective jurisdictions. I can see no purposeful resolution to implementing only one health care plan that is relevant to utilization by all. There are too many variables that apply to each.

So I submit this testimony to all concerned, against one specific healthcare plan being implemented and mandated to cover all citizens, businesses, employers, municipalities, etc. We, our state, is in the middle of a depression and we should not mandate businesses or individuals to choose one plan, which could cost or may implement such instances as fines, mandates or hardships on such businesses, employees or citizens.

We have fewer and fewer businesses in the state as a result of this pandemic. Those that are still in existence should not be penalized by implementing a singular plan, which they have no say in. They should have options, as well as their employees. This also applies to all citizens in our state. No mandated singular state health plan.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,
Geneva Hedgecock

