

Good Morning Senator Lesser, Representative Wood and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Please consider supporting this Bill to go to full debate on the House and Senate floors for a vote by our entire legislature. It is clear even through this pandemic that private industry and insurance do not have all the answers to providing a publicly affordable standard. A public option is crucial to making sure health care, like food, water and shelter, should be a universal human right and offered by our state when for-profit industries fail to provide equitable or affordable options. I have seen too many friends and family struggle and suffer under crushing debts and seek crowd-sourcing aid to afford life-saving procedures and medicine. This is not due to government mandates or regulations that are often in place to protect individuals, but instead due to for-profit goals that satisfy shareholders over the needs of the customers that they serve. We can still be called the insurance capital of the world/US and provide a reasonable series of options that create competition while helping those most in need.

Sincerely,
Steve Jones
Tolland