

Dear Members of Insurance and Real Estate of the Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Anneke Nyary Levine. I am from New Haven, CT, and a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut honors program. I support S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut.

Our rates of uninsured people, particularly people of color, in Connecticut is unacceptable. No one in Connecticut should be unable to afford quality health care.

On a personal note, I am a recent college graduate and a beginning organic farmer. I am deeply passionate about the way good food and sustainable agriculture can heal illness, mitigate climate change, create beauty, build community and local economies, address racial justice issues, and more.

I want to dedicate my life and work to this cause, but the lack of affordable health care options for young farmers causes a great deal of stress, insecurity, and doubt as to whether I can continue in this field of work. At Massaro Community Farm, the small nonprofit organic farm where I work, we do not have health insurance benefits even as full-time workers. If bill SB842 is passed to expand access to affordable quality health insurance, it will make it so much more possible for me and many other young, passionate, motivated people to find work that creatively addresses society's needs in this time of crisis.

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 842 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Thank you for your time,

Anneke Nyary Levine