

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 842- An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut

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

Thank you for allowing me to testify before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee today. I come to you today as a constituent and small business owner with serious concerns about SB 842, which would propose a new a tax on health insurance on small business owners like myself.

As a small business owner, I have persevered through countless hardships and economic struggles. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit us hard, and like thousands of other small businesses across Connecticut and the country, we have faced unprecedented challenges. Throughout everything, I have been proud to provide for my family and my employees, making sure that, in the face of uncertainty and a global health pandemic, they do not have to worry about maintaining their health coverage.

That's why I am extremely concerned about SB 842, which would make it harder and more expensive for me, as an employer, to provide my employees with health insurance.

While proponents of SB 842 claim that this would make insurance more accessible for low-income individuals in Connecticut, it would do the exact opposite at the expense of already over-burdened small business owners and working-class families. Adding a new tax on health insurance will make costs more expensive, while taking money out of the pockets of small business owners who are struggling to survive.

In the midst of a global pandemic and devastating economic recession, I'm asking that our elected leaders support small businesses who are trying our best to keep our doors open and provide for our employees.

I completely support trying to expand health coverage for Connecticut's families. But taxing health care would do the exact opposite, and have devastating unintended consequences.

I urge you reject SB 842, because taxing health care will make it more expensive, and maybe even place it out of reach, for working-class families and small businesses.

Please opposes SB 842.

Sincerely,

Tom Mathews Jr