

**Public Hearing Testimony Against SB 842**  
**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Jesse McDonald**

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Senator Lesser and Representative Wood, Ranking Members Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock- D'Amato, and esteemed members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

Thank you for letting me appear before the committee. I am testifying today because I know that SB 842, a tax on health insurance, would hurt Connecticut workers.

I am the president of Modern Insurance, a small, independent insurance agency in Milford. My company specializes in providing health insurance services for hard-working families and their businesses in Connecticut.

Throughout the pandemic, I have seen firsthand just how difficult it is for the small businesses to continue to provide health insurance for their employees. I've done my best to help my clients navigate these challenging times, and to continue to provide quality health insurance to their families and employees. I can tell you that any policy that increases costs on health insurance could be disastrous to the small businesses I serve.

SB 842 is marketed as a way for the state legislature to expand affordable healthcare coverage. However, as someone who has worked in the Connecticut insurance industry for over 25 years, I can tell you that this proposal could potentially cost thousands of small business employees their healthcare coverage, during a global health crisis when they need it the most.

In 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration found that there are over 350,000 small businesses in the state of Connecticut. I only serve a few of them, but I know that a tax on health insurance would only hurt, not help. The state legislature cannot responsibly enact this policy, especially when so many small businesses are already struggling. On behalf of Connecticut small businesses, I urge you to reject SB 842.

Thank you for your time,

Jesse McDonald