

To the Esteemed Members of the General Assembly,

I write to you today to add my voice to thousands of others in support of S.B. No. 842. As a Connecticut native and longtime resident, I can attest that the insurance and health-care provisions of No. 842 would be an unqualified good for the people of Connecticut, including myself and my family. At a time when our state, like the country at large, is suffering from a once-in-a-century pandemic, and when tens of thousands have lost their jobs, these provisions represent both necessary interventions and an opportunity for the General Assembly to set a national example of leadership in responding to the triple crises of Covid-19, economic recession, and loss of access to medical care. The expansion of Medicaid accessibility will take immediate steps to provide residents with coverage, and the extension of health care coverage for undocumented persons will represent a further step in recognizing the needs and rights all of residents of our state, regardless of their documented status. Furthermore, the increase of subsidies for individual plans purchased through the Access Health CT marketplace will make insurance more affordable for those who have been financially impacted by the economic recession of the pandemic. Likewise, it behooves the Assembly to take action in providing a new public option plan that would lift the current burdens and costs of the employment-based system on nonprofits, trade unions, and small business, all of which have been impacted by the calamities of the past 12 months. As we enter the week that marks the 1 year anniversary of the first recorded Covid-19 death on American soil, we owe it to ourselves and our fellow citizens to set an example of leadership. I ask you, as I know countless other residents are, to stand up for your constituents in this time of crisis, and send the message to all who live in our state that our voices are heard and that our needs will be met. After the cowardice and apathy evinced by our national leaders in 2020, it is incumbent on you to stand up and show that 2021 is a year for bravery and compassion. It is with this sentiment that I implore you to support S. B. No. 842 for Session Year 2021.

Thank you for your time,

Carmen C. Melillo  
Stamford CT  
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