



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

*Hartford Office - 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105
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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut

**Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ
February 8, 2021**

Senator Lesser, Representative Woods, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of House Bill 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut

I am writing on behalf of the 614 congregations and more than 120,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members. In 2007 the assembled delegates and ministers of the historic Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ met and voted on a Resolution that called upon the historic Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ to seek support for Universal Health Care/Universal Health Care Coverage in Connecticut.

We support everyone in Connecticut having access to quality, affordable healthcare with no interruptions in coverage. All Connecticut residents deserve preventive care, coverage for preexisting conditions, access to mental health, family planning and reproductive health care services.

The pandemic has made even clearer to us that we need health care available and affordable to all, and most especially to underserved communities, and communities of color. We need health care that is equitable and by creating new public options, which we support, health care will be more affordable. New public options are good for our economy and will keep workers healthy.

Health care is a racial justice issue. Before the pandemic, Connecticut's overall uninsured rate was 5.3%, but it reached 6.8% for Black residents and 13.1% for Hispanic or Latino residents. Today, the pandemic is sickening and killing Black, Latino and Native Americans at higher rates than whites, reflecting and compounding health care disparities that have long gone unaddressed. This plan seeks to address the lack of racial equity in our system by expanding access to care.

Health Care is a basic human right. Health care should be provided when needed. All of God's people deserve access to affordable and quality healthcare. We therefore, urge the Committee to support Senate Bill 842.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of everyone in Connecticut having access to affordable, quality, healthcare.

Blessings,
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