

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to voice my wholehearted support for measure SB 842. As a small business owner in Connecticut, I have seen firsthand how crippling healthcare issues can be—especially for those of us who are self-employed.

My wife and I were fortunate enough to qualify for her COBRA plan by way of a former employer. With the two of us and our infant son on the plan, our costs were in excess of \$2,100 a month out of pocket for the premium alone. This forced my wife to abandon the business for full-time employment, as the financials of operating the business with the costs of a public plan making the business financially unsustainable—despite bringing in \$120,000 per year.

I urge you to take any and all actions that can help remedy the disastrous healthcare situation we experience not just in the United States, but here in Connecticut as well. If professionals who make six figures cannot afford to run their business, I can't imagine what people making a fraction of that can do to survive. Even with subsidies, these expenses are out of control and create a chilling effect on business growth.

That Aetna and other insurance corporations have come out to express their opposition to this bill should say all that needs to be said: healthcare is a human right, and insurers are unflinching in their desire to keep it from the hands of every American.

Thank you,

Brian

Brian O'Connor