

I am writing today to ask you to move S.B. 842 along right away so it can be put up for a vote. My husband has his own business, and I am self employed, so health insurance has always been a concern for us. When the Affordable Care Act first passed, it was life changing. For the first time there was a health insurance option that our family could afford, but with the changes made to it over the following years, that is no longer the case.

We are scared not to have at least a catastrophic plan in place, so we currently choose the cheapest one available on the exchange every year. That still costs us tens of thousands of dollars in premiums, and only covers the bare minimum unless we meet our deductible (an additional tens of thousands of dollars). Last month, my daughter fell off the playground at school and broke her arm. While she sat in the car screaming, I had to take the time to call around to find the most affordable place to take her. For our family, all that is covered is seeing our doctor once a year for a physical, but if we ever need any bloodwork, a prescription, or a follow up appointment, all of it is out of pocket.

Aside from our mortgage, health insurance is by far our largest expense. The peace of mind this bill would afford us would be life changing. There is so much stress in the world right now, having our basic healthcare needs covered for a reasonable price would alleviate so much of that for so many families in our state. I am asking you to please help move this bill along, and then vote to support a public health insurance option for CT. I have always been proud to be from this state, we are progressive thinkers, and almost always come down on the right side of things. Please, let's be a role model for the rest of the country once again.

Rena