

I am writing to submit testimony in support of S.B. 842, the CT Public Option bill.

It has been 13 months since I have had health insurance, and not for lack of trying. I spent scores of hours attempting to navigate ConnectiCare and the Access Health CT exchange during the pandemic special enrollment period, and was not able to buy health insurance for myself because I had lost my previous insurance outside of the window of eligibility.

It is the height of absurdity that someone who lost insurance due to a loss of employment and income would be unable to purchase insurance because they had been uninsured too long for eligibility. My understanding is that S.B. 842 would rectify this broken part of our current system by providing everyone an opportunity to purchase insurance as a public option, regardless of employment.

Yours,  
Stephen Poland