

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 842.

I believe that the state government should "stay in their lane." It is folly to think the government can provide a commercial service more efficiently than the private sector.

I am now on Medicare; a great deal for me but one that struggles to remain solvent. Prior to Medicare, I was an independent business person with children out of state. My health insurance premiums alone topped \$20K per year with the additional expense of copays. This was a third of my after-tax income. This bill will exert even more pressure on the business community.

In addition, the COVID pandemic has increased the scarcity of doctors and I believe that the low compensation of a government insurance program will prompt more CT doctors to leave the profession, private practice, or state. Increasing the physician population is key to bringing down cost and expanding access.

I continue to believe that the greatest contribution the CGA can make to the people of Connecticut is to find ways to cut medical costs and make the system more efficient. I applaud legislation addressing the cost of pharmaceuticals.

Government insists that healthcare is an access problem. Systems are in place for everybody to have access. The problem is that cost discourages participation.

Charles Reese