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Insurance & Real Estate Committee  
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***SB 842 An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut***

Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Wood and members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee. My name is David Roche, and I am proud to serve as the President of the Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council, I represent 30,000 men and women Building Trades workers and families. Our members live and work in every city and town in our state and reflect the diversity that makes Connecticut great. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 842 An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut.

I also serve as Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer for the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Local #40, (S.M.A.R.T.) one of my duties for the last 18 years has been to serve as the Labor Co-Chair for the locals Health and Welfare fund which is a multi-employer Taft Hartley plan.

There are many variables that affect the construction industry. A slow economy can cause many members to become unemployed. Living in New England, the weather is a major factor. Road work, concrete, etc. come to a halt and our members who work on the exterior of buildings take it day-to-day. The reality of our business is that every day you show up for work gets you one day closer to the completion of a project. When a project is complete, it often results in a layoff. When these circumstances arise, we do our best to keep our members insured.

Throughout the years we have seen double digit increases to our premiums and we have looked at every option available to keep costs down. Every year this becomes increasingly hard.

S.B. 842

- Can help us to maintain health insurance for our workers, not only when they are on the job but also during those times there is no work available.

- Gives us the ability to choose the plan that most aligns with negotiated benefits, allowing members to retain bargained wage increases and other benefits.
- Provides access to high-quality health insurance.
- Leverages negotiating power.
- Expands access and lowers costs, putting more money in the pockets of working families, boosting our economy, and keeping workers healthy and more productive.

We urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 842, legislation creating high quality, dependable and affordable health care. Creating a new public option will give us the opportunity to have a healthy future.

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Roche

President, CT State Building and Construction Trades Council

Business Manager / F.S.T. S.M.A.R.T. Local #40