

Date and time: February 25, 2021

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real State Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is *Lou Sterling*, I am the small business owner of Rooster's Chicken & Waffles in Wethersfield, Berlin, East Hartford, New Britain. I stand in support of SB842- AN ACT CONCERNING Healthcare Public Option. This bill would open up the state's health care plan to small business owners, organizations and individuals that would offer quality, affordable health insurance to many of the people in this state.

My name is Lou Sterling and I am 34 years old. I have lived in Connecticut for a long time, but I am originally from Haiti. I have been a business owner for the past 10 years. I have recently started my restaurant business at the beginning of the Covid Pandemic. Covid has deeply affected a lot of my employees, it is a very sensitive topic. I feel that this all needs to be recognized and addressed. I have a few employees whose loved ones, parents, and children have been really sick from Covid. Unfortunately, they could not afford to pay for the medical bills or copay that was required for treatment. As a result they needed to pick up large shifts or second jobs in order to pay for their medical bills. They need a new affordable healthcare plan.

I support SB-842. and hope the committee will vote favorably.

Thank you for your time,

*Lou Sterling*

Owner of Rooster's Chicken and Waffles