

February 9, 2021
SB 842

Dear Members of Insurance and Real Estate of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing in support of S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care In Connecticut. For too long, the state—and country—have operated under unnecessary and harmful austerity towards their most vulnerable populations. This penny-wise-dollar-foolish attitude has failed, over and over again. People who cannot afford healthcare skip regular physicals and preventative care, they postpone treatment for illnesses until the situation becomes critical (and therefore becomes more dangerous and more costly, and strains emergency rooms statewide), and their wellbeing suffers, their productivity at work suffers, their quality of life suffers. Private insurance costs are astronomical, leaving many people to go uninsured or underinsured, and medical debt has skyrocketed as a result. The overwhelming, bipartisan national support for Medicare For All (69% of those polled by The Hill in 2020) shows that the people of this country want healthcare reform, despite those demands being ignored by their own representatives, two Presidents, and countless corporate lobbyists. Any improvement on the healthcare system as it stands is worth fighting for, and a public option would be a huge advancement in providing affordable care.

Privatization of healthcare has gone the way of all privatization—costs have gone up, and access has gone down. (We've seen it with utility companies as well.) Private health insurance prioritizes its own profit over all else; the frantic letters of opposition from Aetna and the like only reinforce that point.

The state of Connecticut should be prioritizing the health and wellbeing of its residents, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expanding access to healthcare can and will be life changing for so many people. A public option can—and will—save lives, as expanding access to affordable healthcare and preventative care always does. Many others who are more qualified than myself have voiced their support for this act, and I can only hope to have helped amplify the arguments they have made.

Thank you.
Konrad Wainright
Fairfield, CT