



**TESTIMONY OF HARVARD PILGRIM HEALTH CARE  
THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**February 9, 2021**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO:**

**SB 842 An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut**

Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, Senator Hwang, Representative Pavalok D'Amato, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 842 on behalf of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care ("HPHC"). Recently, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care combined with another leading regional nonprofit health insurer, Tufts Health Plan. The new organization now serves 2.4 million members across Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine reaching every segment of the market, regardless of a person's age, health, race, identity or income. The newly combined nonprofit organization will become one of the region's largest health services organizations, providing high-quality health coverage in every segment of the market. Over time, more than \$100 million in savings is anticipated through administrative synergies which will go directly to mitigating premium increases and member out-of-pocket burden. In fulfillment of our combined mission, we take seriously our role in keeping health insurance affordable and accessible for all our members.

We understand the state's desire to be responsive partners in assuring health care affordability for Connecticut residents, and we share that goal. Fortunately, Connecticut is taking important steps to understand drivers of health care costs through several initiatives, including Governor Lamont's 2020 Executive Order to establish a health care cost growth benchmark. Understanding health care cost drivers with a goal of reducing health care cost growth and improve the quality of patient care is a critical foundation to build. Massachusetts has been tracking similar data for ten years and uses the information to highlight areas for health care cost containment, working within segments of the health care system, health insurance included, to slow growth and reduce costs where identified. In the ten years since the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission has been analyzing this data and working in collaboration with partners in the health care system, it has never once proposed expansion of government run health insurance as a solution. Connecticut must first determine where areas of health care cost containment exists and create a plan to the address these underlying factors if it is to meaningfully create lasting consumer affordability, and without sacrificing quality or care.

We encourage the committee to continue to support the ongoing efforts to identify health care costs and work in partnership with the health care system to create meaningful, system-driven and lasting change for the benefit of Connecticut residents. We are available for discussion, to share our experience in our other states, and to partner with you on solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.