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Testimony of James T. Shearin
President-Elect, Connecticut Bar Association
Before the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate
Hartford, CT
February 27, 2024

Testimony in Support of H.B. 5247

Dear Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

The Connecticut Bar Association asks for your support and passage of House Bill 5247. The Bar Association represents around 8,000 attorneys across the state, and together with their firms, many, many thousands of people. The legislation would authorize self-funded and fully insured options to be offered through associations like the Connecticut Bar Association to their lawyers and their thousands of employees.

Our members care about their employees, but they are struggling to provide them with affordable, acceptable insurance, but they do not have the leverage to negotiate effectively with the insurance companies on either price or plan designs. With the Bar Association negotiating on behalf of all its other members, it will be able to garner the best insurance options at more affordable rates for its member firms.

Simply said, the high cost of health insurance leaves many firms struggling to support their employees. I ask that you please support legislation that would authorize self-funded and fully insured options that can be offered through associations like the Connecticut Bar Association. It would greatly help the Associations' members to ensure that they can provide affordable and acceptable health insurance for their employees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James T. Shearin", is written over a horizontal line.

James T. Shearin, Esq.
President-Elect,
Connecticut Bar Association