

TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014

My name is Jennifer Herz and I am Assistant Counsel for the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 businesses throughout Connecticut and the vast majority of these are small companies employing less than 50 people.

CBIA urges your support of SB 15 An Act Concerning the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange Board of Directors.

This bill would add a health insurance broker to the Access Health Board of Directors (the state's exchange) and CBIA urges your support of this measure because a broker will bring a unique perspective and valuable experience to the board. Many employers rely on their brokers to advise them in matters relating to health insurance decisions for their companies and beyond. Just like individuals utilize brokers to help them purchase home or auto insurance – the same close relationship is important to many employers. This relationship makes brokers uniquely familiar with the needs of employers and therefore will be able to provide insight and advice specifically helpful to Access Health.

Brokers are well positioned to share their substantial experience working with the employer community to help transition this changing marketplace.

CBIA urges your support of SB 15 because the brokers have experience that will provide valuable insight to the Access Health board of directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer CBIA's comments.