



Testimony of  
**John Brady**  
**Executive Vice President, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO**

Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
March 5, 2020

Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is John Brady, I am a Registered Nurse and the Executive Vice President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of more than 30,000 public and private sector employees, which includes state workers, healthcare workers, public school teachers, paraeducators, and higher education faculty.

I am submitting testimony in support of **SB 346 An Act Concerning Public Options for Healthcare In Connecticut.**

I support this legislation as a Registered Nurse and Executive Vice President for AFT Connecticut. Too many of Connecticut's residents are suffering from runaway healthcare costs due to high premiums and high deductibles. Too often our residents must decide between healthcare, food and rent. This should not be the case and we should not tolerate it. Medical debt is not only a burden on our residents, it is an economic burden on the state's economy. Additionally, small businesses and nonprofits are made to compete on an unequal playing field as small group insurance plan costs can be prohibitive.

The Connecticut Plan would offer high quality healthcare at an affordable price, without high deductibles, by leveraging the power of the state of Connecticut. It would add a measure of stability to the marketplace and allow more Connecticut residents access to insurance that they could actually use, instead of having insurance which they cannot afford (due to high premiums) and then cannot afford to use (due to high deductibles). It would help to equalize the playing field for small businesses and nonprofits, which are the economic drivers of our economy and vital to so many of our needed services.

In my mind this legislation should have unanimous support. It is not only in the best interest of the people of our state, but its small business friendly.

I urge you to support and pass SB 346, An Act Concerning Public Options for Healthcare In Connecticut.

Thank you,  
John Brady RN  
Vice President  
AFT Connecticut

