

*Written Testimony  
Janet Carlson, March 5, 2020*

**Senate Bill: 346 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of Senate Bill 346 to establish The Connecticut Plan.

My name is Janet Carlson, CEO of the One Eleven Group, and I strongly support expanding affordable quality health care choices for small businesses, nonprofits, and all workers and families. I have run an advertising & marketing agency for 25 years. Historically, we paid 100% of healthcare costs for all of our employees, but the costs kept rising 20 - 25% every year, requiring us to constantly shop around and switch our insurance. We went through Access Health CT for our insurance, we purchased through brokers, we have tried every combination possible to support our staff; it is a burden for us, it is a burden for them. We 1,000% believe in providing our employees AND their families with health insurance - healthcare is a human RIGHT. Allowing small businesses (or anyone!) to buy into the state health insurance plan would bring down the cost for everyone and protect us all against the potential loss or changes to the Affordable Care Act.

I am also Executive Director of Health Pathfinder - we are a team of Community Assisters, and have helped over 7,000 people get access to affordable health insurance, medicines, and healthcare advocacy since 2014. I have seen first hand the human suffering when someone doesn't have health insurance or medical care. Our state has the opportunity to LEAD the country again, as we did when we established Access Health CT and expanded access to Medicaid.

This plan could well serve to attract more new businesses to our state and encourage growth in the small business sector, where it can have a real impact on our state economy. We ALL deserve access to the same highest quality and highest value health care that you as legislators now enjoy, and a more stable risk pool that will ensure my business, my employees and my family are not jeopardized if someone falls ill.

Please consider the importance of Senate Bill 346 to establish The Connecticut Plan. This is about living up to your promises to serve all of Connecticut's workers, families, small businesses and nonprofit employers and NOT caving in to the demands of the insurance industry, *for THEIR profit at OUR expense.*

Respectfully submitted,

**Janet Carlson**

Janet Carlson

CEO, One Eleven Group  
Executive Director, Health Pathfinder

--

**Janet Carlson**

*CEO, Creative Director, Copy*

**One Eleven Group**

*Contact Information*

860 672 0043 x111