



CONNECTICUT REALTORS®

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SB 346

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT

SUPPORT

Submitted to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 5, 2020

By
Connecticut REALTORS®

Connecticut REALTORS® (CTR) submits this testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 346, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT**. CTR represents over 2,900 real estate companies, of which most are small employers.

CTR very much appreciates efforts to provide more options outside the existing insurance markets –and the potential for savings and comprehensiveness of what could eventually be made available.

The proposal appears to address the need for a state government sponsored public health insurance option by taking advantage of the federal waiver program created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The legislation also appears to be address two primary market segments (1) an option for accessing state-financed cost sharing subsidies to those who do not qualify for federal subsidies under the ACA and (2) an option to small employers (with at least one but no more than 50 employees); while providing the necessary oversight through the advisory council and communication with the appropriate regulators.

This legislation could be very beneficial to small employers with a few employees and others above the threshold for accessing the federal subsidies, but still facing affordability issues. The proposal could allow small businesses and nonprofits to have access to a much needed new option for health care coverage.

CTR applauds the effort of the proponents of the bill to identify methods to help make health care a more affordable option for workers in Connecticut. Otherwise, people may have to choose between an expensive high deductible catastrophic plan or no insurance at all.

CTR is hopeful the definition for small employer could be inclusive of self-employed individuals.

In conclusion, CTR supports efforts to expand health insurance options in Connecticut. **SB 346, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT** could be a meaningful option for small business and those who are self-employed. Thank you for working towards those goals

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