

Testimony Supporting S.B. No. 346: An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut

Tiffany Hu

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 5, 2020

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Representative Pavalock D'Amato, and the distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Tiffany Hu, I am a graduate student at the Yale School of Public Health, studying health policy. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

I am writing today in strong support of S.B. No. 346, An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut.

I support S.B. 346 because currently, 50% of people in CT have had difficulty affording health care, 43% of CT adults reported delaying or forgoing care because of cost, and 24% struggled to pay a medical bill. As health care should be a human right, the state of CT should be doing all it can to help deliver high-quality health care without breaking the bank. This bill offers that by insuring care with affordable premiums and no high deductibles.

Currently, along with the general population, small businesses and nonprofits are unable to find or keep skilled workers and unable to compete with corporate benefit packages, due to the high expenses associated with the current health insurance market. This bill could provide small businesses and nonprofits with the opportunity to provide great care for their employees while still supporting their own business.

On the whole, this plan also stabilizes costs by leveraging the market power of the state employee plan, which is really important because the state is currently the largest health care purchaser in the state, covering over 250,000 state and municipal employee lives, leading to a stable risk pool and purchasing power to help bring affordable health care to the rest of CT.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this important issue.

Testimony Supporting H.B. No. 5044: An Act Concerning Immunizations

Tiffany Hu

Public Health Committee

February 19, 2020

Senator Mary Daughterty Abrams, Representative Jonathan Steinberg, and the esteemed members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Tiffany Hu, I am a graduate student at the Yale School of Public Health, studying health policy with a background in microbiology. **I am writing today in strong support of H.B. No. 5044, An Act Concerning Immunizations.**

During my time in college, I remember taking an immunology class where we went into detail about vaccines and their importance. These wonderful scientific achievements that are relatively cost-effective and have allowed for multiple highly contagious deadly diseases to become practically eradicated globally. Vaccines have greatly reduced the burden of infectious diseases.

BUT vaccines only work when most of us are immunized. Only high rates of immunization can create herd immunity, where we have most of the population immunized to stop a disease from spreading. This piece of legislation needs to be enacted in order to protect all schoolchildren, especially those who have actual compromised immune systems and are unable to get vaccines.

This is also such an incredibly important piece of legislation because along with requiring people to be immunized, it authorizes the CT Department of Public Health to release annual school-level data about immunization rates. This is important because we need to know where students may not be getting immunized so that we can increase efforts to help increase herd immunity and boost the helpfulness of vaccines.