

Good afternoon,

My name is Kate Johnson and I am a CPA from Danbury, CT. I work in a two-person firm with only one other seasonal employee. The only access I have to health insurance is via the Exchange. We have looked into a business plan for myself and the other partner and it is always slightly more expensive than the same plan on the exchange. Prior to becoming a CPA I worked in restaurants so I have never had the option of employer-sponsored coverage in my entire adult life.

A public option would do wonders for me. I am also a single mother so provide health insurance for my 5 year old son as well. Being able to buy into a plan that covers many people due to economies of scale would be a much better option than what I currently have. Currently I pay \$750 a month with an \$11,000 annual deductible. It's basically catastrophic care because I pay out of pocket (at the insurance negotiated rate) until I meet my deductible. We can and must do better and both myself and my partner would buy into a public option if one was available.

Thank you,

Kate Johnson