

Rachel Kornbluh
Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate
March 5, 2020

Testimony in Support of S.B. 346:
An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut

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

My name is Rachel Kornbluh, and I am a graduate student in health policy at the Yale School of Public Health. I write this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 346, An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut.

Health insurance coverage in the State of Connecticut is insufficient, leaving residents in precarious positions. Fifty percent of people in the state struggle affording health care, and 24% report that they have struggled to pay a medical care.ⁱ These difficulties have deleterious and often costly outcomes: 43% of adults in the state delayed or forwent care because of its cost.ⁱ Studies have shown that delayed or forgone care is associated with decreased health.ⁱⁱ

The Connecticut Plan offers a solution: affordable plans for individual residents, non-profits, small businesses, and unions. Providing multiple high-quality plan options, this legislation would allow residents to retain choice in health insurance.

This bill would propel the state forward as a leader in health reform, increasing access to care for its residents and empowering small businesses. I strongly support passage of S.B. 346.

If there are any questions I can answer or if there is any additional information I can provide, please contact me at rachel.kornbluh@yale.edu.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Rachel Kornbluh

ⁱ Altarum Health Care Value Hub

ⁱⁱ Chen, J., Rizzo, J. A., & Rodriguez, H. P. (2011). The Health Effects of Cost-Related Treatment Delays. *American Journal of Medical Quality*, 26(4), 261-271.