

**Testimony of Krishna Naik, Yale MPH Candidate
Presented to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 5th, 2020**

***S.B 346: An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut**

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

My name is Krishna Naik and I am currently a Master of Public Health candidate at the Yale School of Public Health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I wish to submit testimony in **support** of SB 346.

I support SB 346 because as of date, 50% of people in Connecticut have had difficulty affording health care.¹ The proposed Connecticut Plan can address the aforementioned crisis impacting our state by offering high quality health care with affordable premiums and no high deductibles. This bill is uniquely equipped to tackle affordability as the market power the state employee plan will hold will stabilize the risk pool and garner purchasing power. Additionally, a wide range of stakeholders benefit from this bill including small businesses, non-profits and individuals.

Support for legislation like the Connecticut Plan is also widespread and growing. In fact, two thirds of the public favor public options for health care.² In public health, we are constantly reflecting on how to target larger systems in order to create effective and sustainable change. Supporting this bill does just that. I strongly encourage you to support SB 346 and in turn support the 43% of Connecticut adults who have reported delaying or forgoing care because of cost.³ Your support will not only directly impact the health and wellbeing of individuals and families across the state but will also set precedent for the rest of the nation.

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

Respectfully,
Krishna Naik, MPH Candidate

¹ www.theconnecticutplan.com

² <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/press-release/poll-democrats-like-public-option-medicare-for-all-but-overall-more-people-support-public-option-including-significant-share-of-republicans/>

³ www.theconnecticutplan.com