



**Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 5, 2020**

Testimony in Support of SB 346 An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut

Good afternoon Chairman Lesser, Chairman Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative and political coordinator for AFSCME Council 4, a union of 32,000 public and private employees including paraeducators across Connecticut.

We support SB 346, *An Act Concerning Public Options for Health Care in Connecticut*, which would authorize the Comptroller to establish the ConnecticutHealth Plan and provide health care options for businesses and nonprofits.

We believe that this is a positive step toward expanding health care to workers across Connecticut who currently don't have access to quality, affordable healthcare. There are currently tens of thousands of workers in Connecticut who don't currently have access to healthcare and this bill would allow them to get the coverage that they need. Connecticut can be a leader in the Country by offering these healthcare options and helping both workers and employers.

We urge the committee to support SB 346.

Thank you.