

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent. I am a small business owner in New Haven, CT. I'm writing to you today in support of SB 346, which would allow small businesses to join the state group for the purpose of obtaining healthcare coverage.

Prospective employees often ask about our benefits, particularly healthcare, and I'm forced to answer that we cannot offer benefits because the small size of our company (7 full-time equivalent staff) gives us no discount or advantage over the individual marketplace plans -- which, as you are aware, are quite expensive. We try to offer decent salaries to make up for it and allow employees to choose the marketplace plan that works best for them, but lack of coverage has been a dealbreaker for a handful of candidates who would otherwise have been a great fit.

I strongly support creating a public option for small businesses.

Sincerely,

Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent

New Haven, CT