



Waterbury Regional Chamber
driving business to business

Testimony of Lynn Ward, President & CEO
Waterbury Regional Chamber
Before the Insurance and Real Estate committee
March 4, 2025

Testifying in **opposition to:**
SB 10: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Patient Protection

Representative Wood, Senator Cabrera, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee: the Waterbury Regional Chamber, which serves 14 towns in the greater Waterbury region and represents the collective interests of more than 900 members in matters of public policy and economic development, strongly opposes section 10 of **Senate Bill 10: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Patient Protection**.

The language in section 10 of this bill increases the attachment points for both large and small employers, making them responsible for paying a substantial increase in medical claims. This will have a devastating effect on the nearly 1000 chamber member business owners, many of whom already struggle due to inflation. If passed, Senate Bill 10 has the potential to force employers into reducing employee hours and benefits or the inability to bring on new hires due to increased health care costs.

This proposal could increase costs of self-funded medical plans by between 20% and 70% for almost half of the businesses in the Greater Waterbury Region. Hundreds of small businesses within our membership choose to participate in self-funded medical plans which make coverage more affordable. Senate Bill 10 removes that option.

Employers will be forced to choose between paying tens of thousands of dollars more for their current coverage, not offering coverage at all, or returning to the costly fully insured market.

In conclusion, the added financial burdens this bill will impose on employers across Connecticut would undoubtedly affect the business community negatively. I respectfully

urge the insurance committee to oppose SB 10: **An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Patient Protection**. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Ward".

Lynn Ward

President & CEO