



PRESS STATEMENT – For immediate release

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Advocates Say Proposed Medicaid Public Option Bill Is a Welcome Jump Start in the Quest for Quality, Affordable Health Care Options for All State Residents

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut president, Frances G. Padilla, lauds the state legislature's proposed Medicaid Public Option (House Bill 5463) as a welcome step forward. "We are pleased that the quest for quality, affordable health care for Connecticut is on the minds of state legislators," said Padilla. "In 2009, our state set off to implement a state public option with passage of SustiNet (Public Act 09-148). That law never came to fruition, but the state should persevere and explore bold approaches to offer better health care choices for us all."

The Foundation submitted testimony on HB 5463, scheduled for a March 20 public hearing before the Human Services Committee ([link here](#)). The bill requires development of a plan for a public health insurance option (called HUSKY E). HUSKY E would build on the Medicaid and Access Health CT structures. A plan would be presented to the legislature by January 2019. In its testimony, the Foundation outlined five guiding principles for universal health care:

- Universal: Access to coverage and care when and where you need it, leaving no one out
- Continuous: No gaps in coverage throughout your life
- Affordable: For all income levels
- Sustainable: For the economy
- Healthy Outcomes: High quality, safe, comprehensive and equitable care that promotes health

The federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed in March 2010, eight months after the 2009 SustiNet law. Since then, Connecticut has concentrated on effective implementation of the ACA. In the past year, that success has been threatened as the federal government has acted to erode the gains made by the ACA.

"The vacuum of positive health care leadership in Washington, DC makes it vital that states take action," Padilla added. "We look forward to being part of the discussion."

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Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's mission is to serve as a catalyst for residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides universal access to quality, affordable health care and promotes health in Connecticut. We believe that health care is a fundamental right and that our work is part of a broader movement for social and economic justice.