



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

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Press Statement – For Immediate Release

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**Foundation Leader Says Public Option Health Plan Will Benefit People
Left Behind in the Current Health Care Market**

On the eve of a public hearing to consider the creation of a new health plan backed by the state of Connecticut, Frances G. Padilla, president of Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut issued strong support for an idea that is long overdue. “It’s time for bold action on health care. This bill would put us on a path to better care, better costs and better choices for the individuals and small businesses who are left behind in the current marketplace.”

“In 2009, we worked hard to pass a public option for Connecticut, called Sustinet, because costs were freezing people out of the insurance market. That law was never implemented. Now, ten years later we see clearly that the health insurance market continues to fall short for too many people,” said Padilla. “We believe Connecticut should step up to the challenge. Why not use our state’s buying power to offer a new state health plan in the market? We believe people will choose it, if it offers quality care at a price they can afford.”

The Foundation supports HB 7267 An Act Concerning Public Options for Connecticut. The bill is up for a public hearing on March 7 at noon before the Insurance & Real Estate Committee. The proposal is to open the State Partnership plan to small businesses and nonprofits with 50 or fewer employees in 2020. In 2021, a new ConnectHealth plan would be open to individuals who do not get coverage through their employer. Both plans could be purchased by choice and the premiums would be paid by the small business or individual.

[Link to Frances G. Padilla’s testimony](#)

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut’s mission is to serve as a catalyst that engages 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.

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