



PRESS RELEASE

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Foundation Releases Petition Calling on Gov. Malloy to Ask Commissioner Wade to Resign

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut released a petition today with over 600 signatures that calls on Governor Dannel Malloy to ask the state's embattled insurance commissioner, Katharine Wade, to resign.

Commissioner Wade has come under increasing media scrutiny and criticism for her handling of two health insurance mega-mergers, Aetna-Humana and Anthem-Cigna. According to advocates, the Insurance Department's oversight of the proposed mergers has appeared secretive and anti-consumer.

"Connecticut deserves nothing short of a robust, transparent and public-friendly review of insurance mergers, particularly since the Anthem-Cigna merger alone will impact 1.5 million state residents," said Foundation president, Frances G. Padilla. "We are sad to say that Commissioner Wade's insistence on not recusing herself from the review has left us with no confidence in the process. Our governor should put the interests of hardworking families first and ask Commissioner Wade to step aside. Then, he should ensure that the review process is overseen by an impartial official who runs a hearing that is transparent and open to real public input, including granting intervener status to appropriate parties."

The Foundation has raised concerns about the insurance mega-mergers since they were announced in 2015. Earlier this year, they called on Commissioner Wade to conduct a thorough, open hearing process that truly engaged consumers. However, they concluded that Commissioner Wade was too riddled with conflicts as information regarding her personal and professional connections to Cigna, as well as her secretive approval of the Aetna-Humana merger, came to light.

The petition states:

I am outraged about the state's poor oversight of the proposed Anthem-Cigna merger. I am not confident that consumer interests are being protected in light of the tainted process.

It appears impossible that Insurance Commissioner Katharine Wade is able to preside over the process without a strong appearance of conflict of interest. You should ask Commissioner Wade to resign immediately. And once she has stepped down, Connecticut should start fresh with a new review of the Anthem-Cigna merger that is free of conflict, transparent and open to real public input.

Too much is at stake. You must take action now! We cannot hand over 1.5 million health insurance lives to Anthem without a fair, unbiased process.

Please do what's right for Connecticut! The people of this state are counting on you.

The Foundation's petition is in addition to petitions being circulated by other advocacy organizations, all calling the Connecticut merger review process into question.