



PRESS STATEMENT

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Foundation Lauds Bold Health Care Reform (SB 811): ***Bipartisan Effort Puts the Health and Well-Being of People First***

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut President Frances G. Padilla praised the state Senate and House on bipartisan passage of a far-reaching omnibus health care reform bill.

"In a remarkable bipartisan effort, state leaders took bold action to reign in runaway health care costs and put accountability back into the system," said Padilla.

"This bill puts Connecticut back in the forefront of health reform. We are looking to the future rather than letting it run over us," added Padilla. "Too many people fail to get access to quality care at a price they can afford. It's high time our state stepped in to protect people when they are seeking care."

The foundation views the bill as a major building block in aligning the state's health care system for the future. The bill includes key pro-consumer and accountability features:

- Creates transparency through web-based access to health care pricing and quality
- Protects patients from "surprise billing" and "facility fees"
- Creation of a statewide health information exchange

The bill also makes long-overdue strides in planning for the health needs of the 21st century:

- Directs the Health Care Cabinet to study cost containment models from other states and make recommendations for how the state can move forward
- Creates clear parameters for conversion and consolidation of hospitals and health networks
- Develop funding mechanisms to support community-based hospitals (rather than have the only options for such hospitals be acquisition by a larger hospital or for-profit entity)

Senate Bill 811, is the bipartisan effort of Senate President Marty Looney (D) and Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano (R), which resulted from work they started via last year's Bipartisan Roundtable on Hospitals and Health Care. It passed in the Senate on May 28 (30-5) and an amended version passed in the House on May 30 (98-43). The bill passed unanimously through the Senate this afternoon.