



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony Regarding  
Senate Bill 810: An Act Establishing a Special Commission on Provider Price  
Variation and Reform & Senate Bill 815: An Act Concerning Health Care Policy  
and Cost Containment  
Submitted by Frances G. Padilla, President  
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Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents.

Connecticut faces numerous challenges as it strives to address the need for access to high-quality, affordable health care that improves health for all state residents. The bills you are hearing today address many current challenges, but they are either short-term responses or do not coordinate and leverage existing efforts and investments to help us achieve long-term, sustainable solutions. Even worse, some bills may create unintended consequences.

**I urge you to watch Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut's short video testimony and check out our complete written testimony and supporting resources on the web at: [bit.ly/uahcf-legislative](http://bit.ly/uahcf-legislative)**

We can learn much from other states, such as Massachusetts, Vermont, Oregon and Washington—all of which have an "authority" of some sort that brings together health care planning and policymaking to best serve the health care interests of each state. These states are trying to look at the whole picture. We do not have a coordinated, cohesive approach in Connecticut and it is to the detriment of the families, businesses, communities and taxpayers of this state.

What we really need is an omnibus bill that incorporates components of these two bills (SB 810 and SB 815), Senate Bills 811 through 814, as well as House Bill 6938 and Senate Bill 916—and possibly more ideas. We ask legislative leaders to work to craft a bill with input from stakeholders including consumers, providers and payers. We believe that such a bill can build on current positive work being done in Connecticut and help realize visionary, strategic and sustainable solutions to our shared health care challenges.

However, absent an omnibus bill, we appreciate the inclusion of consumers in the special commission described in SB 810. But we note with concern that SB 815 does not require consumer participation. We believe very strongly that consumers should be at the table for these discussions to ensure an inclusive system for all people.

We question, though, the need for both a special commission (SB 810) and an independent state agency (SB 815). Each of these bodies are tasked with similar, though not identical, tasks—which begs the question: “Why not combine their functions?”

These proposals lack integration and coordination with existing initiatives, such as Connecticut's State Innovation Model (SIM) project, supported by a \$45 million grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). SIM is implementing "a number of initiatives designed to improve population health, strengthen primary care, promote value-based payment and insurance design, and obtain multi-payer alignment on quality, health equity, and care experience measures" (see the [Healthcare Innovation Central website](#)).

These two bills address critical aspects of health care in Connecticut and lay the groundwork for potential long-term changes—in that way we are supportive of the effort. But we feel that both proposals fall short of real change, and that their failure to coordinate with existing work limits their ability to push our health care system forward. This is why we support the creation of an omnibus bill, as explained above.