



**For Immediate Release**

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**Foundation urges CID to utilize tools to keep insurer greed in check**

Despite banner fiscal years for insurance companies, late last week insurers announced that they will seek rate increases for 2022 policies in both the small group and individual markets at 12.9 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively, on average.

“Insurers are working overtime to dismantle the façade that they actually care about their customers,” said Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy. “People who purchase insurance on the individual market and as small businesses have been financially squeezed for the past 16 months, and to ask them for more while making banner profits is just wrong.”

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut has long asked the CT Insurance Department to protect consumers from insurers' greed. Finally, there is a tool to help measure the impact on consumer affordability. Universal Health Care helped to fund the creation of the Connecticut HealthCare Affordability Index, recently released by the Office of Health Strategy. The Index is available for lawmakers and state leaders to use in determining what percent of peoples' income should be spent on health care.

Universal Health Care urges the CID to utilize this tool during the coming hearings on these rate increases.

“We have the tools to protect hardworking Connecticut residents from going broke in order to afford health care. To not use the new Index would send a message that the consumer doesn't matter,” said Ide.

*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, equitable 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.*