



NOTES OF INTEREST

- Governor Lamont presented his FY 2023-2024 [Budget Adjustments](#) on February 9th
- Insurance & Real Estate Committee Meetings are being carried on CT-N and via [YouTube](#).
- Links are provided on the [CGA Calendar Meeting](#) notices
- Access Health CT Board will meet February 17th



Legislative Highlights February 14, 2022

LEGISLATION

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) convened for the 2022 Legislative Session on Wednesday, February 9th. While the Insurance and Real Estate committee is yet to hold their first [meeting](#), legislative leaders and Governor Lamont have begun to outline their healthcare priorities for the year.

On February 2nd, Senate Republicans held a [press conference](#) to announce their [healthcare proposals](#) for the session. Julie Chubet joined them for the announcement. The plan includes a number of proposals which aim to implement a state-based reinsurance program, reduce healthcare cost growth through benchmarking, examine pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and practices such as spread pricing, maximize pool purchasing for prescription drugs and health care supplies, and increase transparency and data sharing to drive down costs. The full plan can be found [here](#).

Speaker of the House, Democrat Matt Ritter, has indicated behavioral/mental health will be a major focus for his caucus this session, especially for children.

One of the major potential issues this session will be the state run government public option.

The General Assembly Insurance and Public Health Committees are both considering initiatives on government run and government sponsored health care concepts.

While no bills have yet to be raised, we anticipate there will be a new effort on public option as many legislators have indicated that they are very focused on expanding and growing the government role in health care.

Some of the historical supporters of the public option have continued to push within their caucuses and with community advocacy groups to try and pass a bill in 2022 with a full or scaled down version of a public option bill.

We anticipate at least one and maybe more bills that are either full public option or smaller versions of it will be introduced in 2022 session.

In the wake of these conversations, a [new report](#) from KNG Health Care Consulting finds that the creation of a new government controlled health insurance system in Connecticut, known as the public option, could lead to

negative consequences including higher taxes on individuals and businesses, higher premiums for workers and their families and



reduced access to quality care for Connecticut residents due to unsustainable reimbursement rates for health care providers. The full report, “The Impact of a Connecticut Public Option on Health Insurance Coverage and State Spending,” was commissioned by the [Partnership for America’s Health Care Future](#).

Other expected legislative proposals this session include an expansion of HUSKY coverage to all children (regardless of immigration status) up to age 18, an examination of health care consolidation practices, and a plan to address health care sharing ministries.

ADMINISTRATION

Governor Lamont addressed a joint session of the Connecticut General Assembly on Feb. 9th. He presented his [FY 2023 Recommended Budget Adjustments](#). A video and transcript of the address can be viewed [here](#).

The governor told the legislature that a priority this session will be addressing the underlying cost of healthcare. Among the proposals is [SB 13](#), which will establish a ‘Covered Connecticut account’ within the Office of Health Strategy for the purpose of supporting the Covered Connecticut program established under section 9 19a-754c of the general statutes, and Department of Social Services for the purpose of supporting the state medical assistance program administered by the department. The legislation also includes proposals to safely re-import lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada, and cap prices on prescription drugs here at home ([fact sheet](#)).

Additionally, the governor has introduced [SB 15, AN ACT ENCOURAGING PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE CARE](#), which proposes creating incentives for residents to participate in a health enhancement program and making it easier for patients to contact a primary care provider for an in-person or telehealth visit ([fact sheet](#)). The governor also announced he is proposing legislation to make health care prices more transparent ([HB 5042, fact sheet](#)).

ACCESS HEALTH CT

On January 19th, Governor Lamont [announced](#) that Access Health CT is launching its Broker Academy, a program aiming to reduce health disparities and the number of uninsured people in the state. The program will create a pathway to license health insurance brokers by recruiting and building the skillsets of people who live and work in historically underserved communities throughout Connecticut. It begins June 1, 2022, with recruitment currently underway for cohorts in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and their surrounding areas.

Representatives of community organizations interested in recruiting qualified candidates or a licensed broker who would like to serve as a mentor should send an email to AHCT.BrokerAcademy@ct.gov.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age; a resident of Bridgeport, Hartford, or New Haven (or surrounding areas); have a high school diploma or GED; supply between one to three professional reference letters; submit a personal statement on why they would be a good fit for this program; have a demonstrated history of community involvement or service; and have strong communication and customer service skills. Anyone with questions can send an email to AHCT.BrokerAcademy@ct.gov for more information. The Broker Academy application is available online [here](#).

BROKERS PARTICIPATE IN WATERBURY CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE MEETING



Julie Chubet Addresses the Waterbury Regional Chamber at their 2022 Legislative Breakfast

CT Benefit Brokers leadership participated in an important regional legislative event this week with the Waterbury Regional Chamber. Former CT Benefit Brokers president Julie Chubet and Legislative Chair John Calkins both attended the 2022 Waterbury Regional Chamber Legislative Breakfast in Southbury.

In attendance were Governor Lamont, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, State Senators, including George Cabrera, Joan Hartley, Eric Berthel and House members, Gerry Reyes, Ron Napoli, John Piscipo, and Joe Poletta.

Julie spoke on behalf of [Connecticut's Health Care Future](#) and thanked the public officials for attending and gave some introductory overview remarks about CT Benefit Brokers and the importance of brokers in any healthcare solution. She also spoke about the importance that any bill or program must not create more cost and burden on patients, employers and the medical providers.

This event was a great opportunity to participate in an open dialogue with the top leaders of Connecticut's executive branch and leadership in the General Assembly. There will be other events during the year for brokers who are interested in getting more actively involved in legislative and community events. Please let PJ Cimini (pj@csgct.com), John Calkins or Julie Chubet know if you're interested and we'll be sure to include you in those and let you know about events that are in your area.

KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- **FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT ON COVID-19, INCLUDING GUIDANCE AND OTHER RESOURCES, ALL RESIDENTS IN THE STATE ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT [CT.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.ct.gov/coronavirus)**
- **CT Insurance Department Bulletins:** <https://portal.ct.gov/CID/Bulletins/Current-List-of-Bulletins>
- **Connecticut Paid Leave Authority website:** [CTPaidLeave.org](https://www.ctpaidleave.org)

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

Hartford Business Journal: Study: [‘Public option’ could lead to higher premiums, taxes](#)

CT Mirror: [Lawmakers eye lofty health care reforms in short session](#)

Hartford Business Journal: [Bordonaro: State-backed public option won't be the antidote to rising healthcare costs](#)

NBC CT Face the Facts: [State Comptroller Talks About CT's Budget Surplus](#)

CT Insider: [Connecticut to train 100 health insurance brokers to reduce uninsured population](#)

Hartford Courant: [Connecticut lawmakers eye lofty health care reforms. Here's what they include](#)

Yankee Institute: [Hidden costs would undermine Public Option healthcare proposal, according to study](#)

CT Mirror Viewpoints: [Health care in Connecticut is too expensive. One prescription: the public option](#)

Yankee Institute Policy Report: [A Risky Plan: Connecticut's Public Option Proposal](#)

Medical Marketing and Media: [Health insurance and health disparity: Connecticut group tries to bridge the gaps](#)



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