



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

January 9, 2023

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 202e Session on January 4th.
- Access Health CT Board of Directors will meet next on January 19th at 9am . Meeting materials can be found [here](#)
- Rep. Kate Farrar is hosting a press conference on "HUSKY for all" on Wednesday, January 11th at 10am. It may be broadcast live on [CT-N](#).

2023 SESSION OPENING AND OUTLOOK

The Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) convened for the 2023 Legislative Session on Wednesday, January 4th. Eight new senators and twenty-eight new representatives were sworn into office, alongside 119 returning legislators from across the state (two returning Democratic representatives are accepting other jobs and did not take the oath of office). Democratic Governor Ned Lamont was also sworn into his second term, as well as a slate of new Constitutional officers and re-elected Attorney General William Tong. Notably, former state representative and Insurance chair Sean Scanlon was sworn in as the state's next Comptroller. The General Assembly was set to begin legislative business the next day, but after the tragic death of Middletown [State Representative Quentin Williams](#), legislative leaders canceled all meetings and closed the capitol complex for the remainder of the week. The assembly will resume regular business this week.

Democrats will begin the 2023 session with strong majorities in both chambers. In the House, Democrats hold a 96-53 majority (with two vacancies) and in the Senate, a 24- 12 majority over Republicans. The retirement of many long time legislators, and election of so many new ones, has also resulted in changes to committee leadership. State Senator Jorge Cabrera (D, Hamden) will serve as the new chair of the Insurance and Real Estate committee alongside current house chair of the committee, state Representative Kerry Wood (D, Rocky Hill).

Longtime Insurance and Real Estate committee senate chair, Matt Lesser (D, Middletown), will remain on the committee as a member but serve as chair of the Human Services committee instead. His house counterpart will be state Representative Jillian Gilchrest (D, West Hartford). Ranking Republican members on the Insurance committee will remain Senator Tony Hwang (R, Fairfield) and Cara Pavalock D'Amato (R, Bristol).

After two years, legislative leaders have reopened the Capitol Complex building entirely to the public. Legislative rules will continue to allow committee members to attend meetings either in person or virtually. The legislature also plans to continue to provide a video conference/phone option for public hearings.

LEGISLATION

The first meeting of the Insurance and Real Estate committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th, at 9:00 am. While we have yet to see any legislation published, we do expect a





number of legislative proposals. NABIP-CT leadership and Capitol Strategies Group met last week to discuss some

of the possible proposals. We will continue to monitor all bills as they are introduced and provide updates on all legislation of interest.

Potential legislation topics:

Association Health Plans: Association health plan advocates are expected to renew a push for legislation. We would expect to see language similar to last year's proposed bill, which NABIP-CT supported in public hearing.

Changes to the CT Partnership Plan: In a recent presentation, the office of the state comptroller has proposed a statutory redesign to help keep the Connecticut Partnership Plan solvent. The proposed change would allow the Comptroller's Office to create three levels of premium rates: standard, high and low, and partners will be charged the premium that corresponds to their MLR experience. This change would need to be approved by the state legislature- we will be sure to follow this topic closely.

State-funded Health Care Coverage/Public Option: We expect Democratic legislators to once again reintroduce legislation creating a state funded healthcare system. It is possible this legislation will be introduced in either (or both) the Insurance or Human Services committees. It is also possible we will see proposals for some sort of Medicaid expansion-on Wednesday, January 11th, State Representative Kate Farrar (D, West Hartford) will hold a press conference on something titled "HUSKY for All"- we will report back.

Healthcare Cost Reduction/Access Health CT Small Group Market: Last month, [ConnectiCare announced](#) it would be pulling out of the fully insured small group market leaving only four insurers to serve the market's customers . We expect legislators on both sides of the aisle to introduce legislation aimed at reducing the overall cost of healthcare, especially for small business owners.

Senate Republican Healthcare Reform Proposals: Senate Republicans are expected to reintroduce many of their proposal's from their 2021 health care reform [package](#), including reinsurance, prescription drug pricing, and transparency-focused reforms.

Budget: As it is a long legislative session, the governor will propose a new biennial budget to the legislature in early February for their review, amendments, and eventual approval.

ADMINISTRATION

Governor Lamont is expected to release his legislative proposals in his annual budget address to the legislature in early February. In his opening remarks to the legislature on Wednesday, he indicated his plan for Connecticut is "fewer taxes and more tax payers." The governor has continued to publicize his opposition to a state-run public option program. The Office of Policy and Management is yet to release state agency legislative proposals for the 2023 session. These proposals outline the policy priorities for each agency . When the governor's and agency legislative proposals are released, we will be sure to share details about relevant proposals.

There have also been some changes to the governor's agency heads in the new year. As of January 4th, former Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, Deidre Giffords, is now the Executive Director of the Office of Health Strategy. Andrea Barton Reeves, chief executive officer of the Connecticut Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority, will take over as commissioner of DSS pending legislative approval.

KEY INFORMATION RESOURCES:

- **CT Insurance Department Bulletins:** <https://portal.ct.gov/CID/Bulletins/Current-List-of-Bulletins>
- **Connecticut Paid Leave Authority website:** CTPaidLeave.org

RECENT ARTICLES AND OP-EDS OF NOTE:

- **Hartford Business Journal:** [Lawmakers outline health policy priorities for upcoming session](#)
- **CT Inside Investigator:** [Comptroller's office pitches fix for struggling Partnership Plan](#)
- **CT Mirror:** [Health advocates outline priorities for upcoming legislative session](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Lamont Acknowledges Connecticut's Affordability Issue In Address To Joint Session](#)
- **Hartford Courant:** [Rising health care costs in Connecticut can be confusing. Here's what experts say are causes and impacts.](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie Op-Ed (Ellen Andrews):** [OP-ED | HEALTH INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY REVIEW IS GOOD, BUT IT'S NO SILVER BULLET](#)



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