

NOTES OF INTEREST

- The Connecticut State Legislature began the for 2023 Session on January 4th.
- The Insurance and Real Estate committee has a number of public hearings scheduled for February. All hearings can be watched live [here on the committee's youtube page](#).



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

February 20, 2023

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate committee has begun the public hearing process of the legislative session. There will be a public hearing on several bills of interest, including Association Health Plans, on Tuesday, February 21st at 2:30 PM. The hearing will include three recently tracked pieces of legislation:

[HB 6710 - An Act Concerning Association Health Plans.](#)

- This bill reflects the legislative language for AHPs proposed by the CT Business & Industry Association (CBIA) and a coalition of other business stakeholders.
- The language seeks to allow small business to group together under the umbrella of a trade association to pool resources and risks, creating large self-insured health plans that will reduce costs for business owners and employees.
- NABIP-CT has been engaged with CBIA on their proposed legislation and plans to offer public hearing testimony and written testimony on the bill

[HB 6712 - An Act Concerning The Removal Of Assessments On The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.](#)

- This proposed legislation would: (1) Eliminate assessment fees for carriers offering qualified health plans on the exchange; (2) require that the Insurance Department conduct a study of premium reductions for health carriers offering qualified health plans on the exchange; (3) reduce the insurance premium tax rate; and (4) require the state to fund the operating costs of the exchange.

[HB 6709-An Act Concerning Access Health CT](#)

- This legislation would allow health carriers on the exchange to directly market and assist with enrolling members and would pose a significant threat to broker business. The NABIP-CT will be opposing this legislation.



Senate Republican Healthcare Proposals

On Thursday, February 16th, Senate Republicans held a press conference to discuss their proposed healthcare legislation for the 2023 session. The proposed policies include reducing costs through purchasing pools and healthcare benchmarking, implanting a reinsurance program, requiring audits of health plans offered to state and municipal employees, addressing anti-consumer PBM policies, and enacting legislation that would permit Association Health Plans. We have tracked a number of these proposals for you already and will continue to provide you updates on these bills.

We also continue to track bills of interest on topics such as: the state partnership plan, State-funded Health Care Coverage/Public Option, healthcare cost reduction, and re-insurance. We will keep you updated as legislation develops.

The Insurance committee has scheduled a number of public hearings for February and early March, and dates are below.

Scheduled Public Hearings- Insurance and Real Estate Committee

- Tuesday, February 21 at 2:30 PM
- Thursday, February 23 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 28 at 9:00 AM
- Thursday, March 2 at 2:30 PM

All public hearings of the Insurance committee will be held in a hybrid format- individuals will have the option to testify either via Zoom or in person before the committee. We will be sure to alert you as bills of interest are added to hearing agendas. We are also ready and available to assist with hearing sign ups and testimony drafting and submission.

ADMINISTRATION

Budget: The governor [proposed a new biennial budget to the legislature on February 8th](#). The budget will now undergo a process of legislative review, amendments, and eventual approval. In his proposal, the governor has included the following proposals of interest related healthcare:

- \$34.4 million to be used over the next two years to help close the affordability gap for those who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to purchase a subsidized plan on Access Health CT.
- eliminating hospital facility fees charged at free-standing offices and clinics.
- Penalties for health care organizations that eliminate services for patients.
- Establishing a pharmaceutical buying consortium with other states.

The governor's proposed budget can be found [here](#). The governor's full list of legislative proposals can be found [here](#).



The Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly has begun their committee review of the budget by agency. A final vote on the budget is not expected until late May or early June. We will continue to keep you updated as issues arise.

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:

- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Human Services Committee Weighs Expanding Medicaid Coverage to Young Immigrants](#)
- **CT Examiner:** [Hundreds Testify in Hartford, Urging State to Expand HUSKY to Immigrants Under 26](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Judge Sides With Medicaid Recipients In Nationwide Class Action](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Lamont Doesn't Impress With Health Care Agenda](#)
- **CT NewsJunkie:** [Senate Republicans Announce Another Push for a State Reinsurance Program](#)



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