

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 meetings scheduled for March. A schedule of meetings can be found [here](#). All meetings can be streamed live [here on the committee's youtube page](#).



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

March 6, 2023

LEGISLATION

The Insurance and Real Estate committee is fully engrossed in the public hearing process of the legislative session. The committee will also begin to refer bills out of committee in what is known as the Joint Favorable (JF) process. All Insurance committee bills must be referred out of committee by a deadline of March 16th.

NABIP-CT Testimony Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

On Tuesday, February 21st John Calkins and Julie Chubet of the NABIP legislative committee visited the Capitol complex to attend a bipartisan press conference in support of Association Health Plan legislation ([HB 6710 - An Act Concerning Association Health Plans](#)). The press conference was hosted by House chair of the Insurance Committee, Kerry Wood, as well as a number of stakeholders from the business and nonprofit communities.

Later that day, John and Julie attended an Insurance and Real Estate Committee Public Hearing and provided testimony before the committee on the HB 6710 as well as [HB 6709-An Act Concerning Access Health CT](#) and [HB 6712 - An Act Concerning The Removal Of Assessments On The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange](#).

A copy of NABIP-CT's written testimony can be found [here](#).

[Watch John and Julie's Testimony Before the committee here.](#)



Association Health Plans Bi-Partisan Press Conference



Press on AHP Legislation:

[CT legislature considers trade association health plans](#)

[Legislation to Improve Health Insurance for Small Businesses Receives Public Support](#)

[Small Business Health Insurance Bill Gains Broad Bipartisan Support](#)

[Support grows for association health plans as small employer insurance costs soar](#)

Recent Action on other Legislation of Interest:

SB 6 - An Act Concerning Utilization Review And Health Care Contracts, Health Insurance Coverage For Newborns And Step Therapy.

SB 6 is scheduled for a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 9th. The bill is a proposal put forward by the Senate Democratic caucus. The legislation would do a number of things, including the following:

- Establish a utilization review exemption standard for certain participating providers;
- require that each health carrier process utilization review requests more efficiently;
- require that each health carrier develop an electronic prior authorization process;
- extend the time period within which an insured shall provide notice of the birth of a newborn and pay any required premium or subscription fee to continue the newborn's coverage beyond such period;
- prohibit health carriers from requiring the use of step therapy for drugs prescribed to treat behavioral health conditions or chronic, disabling or life-threatening conditions or diseases; and
- prohibit health carriers from requiring utilization review of a health care service or prescription drug after it has been certified through utilization review.

Upcoming Meetings and Public Hearings- Insurance and Real Estate Committee

- The next (and possibly last) public hearing of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee will be Thursday, March 9th at 1:30 PM
- The committee has two meetings scheduled to refer bills out of committee, Tuesday March 13th and Thursday March 15th at 9 am.
- 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

Healthcare Legislation: Governor Ned Lamont held a news conference in New Britain to announced that he has submitted multi-pronged legislative proposals to the General Assembly that focus on reducing health care costs for Connecticut residents, with a particular emphasis on enhancing competition, eliminating unnecessary charges, reducing rising prices, and increasing affordability for residents and employers. The legislation is [House Bill 6669, An Act Protecting Patients and Prohibiting Unnecessary Health Care Costs](#), and [Senate Bill 983, An Act Limiting Anticompetitive Health Care Practices](#). A press release on the proposals can be found [here](#).

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's Healthcare Future: ICYMI: [“Washington’s Public Option Is Nothing To Cheer About”](#)**
- **CT NewsJunkie: [Lamont Pitches Plan to Reduce Health Care Costs](#)**
- **Hartford Courant Op-Ed: [Kathlene Gerrity: Connecticut residents and a critical health care issue](#)**
- **Newtown Patch: [Hwang Supports Legislation For Affordable Health Insurance Options](#)**
- **CTMirror [Medicaid is ‘unwinding’ in CT. Here’s what you need to know](#)**
- **CT Mirror: [CT Republicans pitch their hopes for more affordable health care](#)**
- **CT Examiner: [Health Insurance Hikes Drive School Budget Spending Across Connecticut](#)**



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