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Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony
Senate Bill 331 AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO
CONSIDER AFFORDABILITY IN REVIEWING
HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM RATE FILINGS
Insurance And Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of **Senate Bill 331 AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO CONSIDER AFFORDABILITY IN REVIEWING HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM RATE FILINGS.**

CSMS has long thought that the Connecticut Insurance Department (CID) reviews of rate setting by insurers, as well as mergers and acquisitions, should include more than just a cursory review of the impact on patients. By leaving out or not considering the financial impact of premiums or mergers and acquisitions, a disservice is done to the patients of Connecticut who have commercial health insurance coverage. CSMS has been, for the last two years, at odds with the CID over the lack of transparency and clarity of their insurance reviews and we have often testified in front of this body as well as in front of CID and other regulatory arenas, both local and nationally, calling on Connecticut to take into strong consideration the affordability and access to health care delivery tied to health insurance premiums as well as the mergers and acquisitions, both horizontal and vertical, of health insurers. CSMS strongly supports this legislation and believes that it is time that CID become much more than a rubber stamp tied to health insurance rates and mergers and acquisitions of health insurers in Connecticut. It is time for the CID to better serve the public rather than serving the health insurance industry.

Please support Senate Bill 331