

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7101

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY A HUSKY FOR ALL

Title: SINGLE-PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/14/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3rd Dist., Rep. Sarah Keitt, 134th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would establish a commission to analyze the economic and practical implementation of a single-payer HUSKY universal health care program. The Joint Commission on Legislative Management will staff and provide administrative support.

This bill seeks to address how the state would realistically implement a single-payer health care system that would provide equal and accessible care for all residents. Many believe that health care is a human right, and this program is one approach to acknowledge that belief and to create a more sustainable economic model.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner](#): supports this bill and appreciates the opportunity to further explore this issue, and welcome the committee's decision to include them in this commission. They note however, that the current governor's budget does not support the work needed to implement the program.

[Connecticut Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Kathleen Holt, Healthcare Advocate](#): supports this bill and mentions the rising costs of health care that has increasingly become

unaffordable for Connecticut residents. They believe this is the perfect time to explore single-payer systems and examine the fiscal and social costs along with how to implement with maximum benefits and minimum disruption.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Liz Dupont-Diehl, Associate Director](#): supports this bill and mentions the focus on the brokenness and dysfunction of the current health care system. The system has become one of shareholders, executive pay increases, stock buybacks and excessive lobbying and marketing. They add that the industry is pitting folks against each other with misinformation and that many struggle to get the lifesaving care they need. They support this legislation and urge its passage.

[She Leads Justice, Tonishia Signore, Policy Director](#): support this bill and strongly advocate for the idea that healthcare is a human right. They believe in investing resources into finding ways to implement the best policy possible and for the governor's budget to include this important endeavor.

[St. Patrick St. Anthony Church, Stephanie Silver, Member and Volunteer](#): supports this bill and advocates for further support for Husky Healthcare in supplying diapers to families in need.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[CT Association of Health Plans, Susan Halpin, Executive Director](#): opposes this legislation over serious concerns of the economic and practical implications. They point to the crucial healthcare market that is vital to the state's economy that would be immediately disrupted. They add that launching a study may raise unrealistic expectations of the actual ability to implement this program. They instead suggest studying ways to make current programs more affordable and accessible.

[Yankee Institute, Tim Anop, Director of External Affairs](#): opposes this bill and adds that a single-payer system is unsustainable and an expensive model that would undermine the state's economy. They go over the downsides of switching to an entirely new system specifically the legal and regulatory challenges. They recommended more practical changes increasing access without sacrificing quality.

[Health Benefits Institute, J.P. Wieske, Executive Director](#): strongly opposes this bill and mentions how expensive this system would be to enact. They go into detail the cost of the program and the legal hurdles it would take citing ERISA and having to purchase or void union and state employee health insurance plans. They go into detail on the difficulty of transition and union issues. It is stated, the Affordable Care Act has already provided multiple public options.

Reported by: Christian Talarski

Date: 4/1/25