

# Human Services Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1477

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING A COVERED CONNECTICUT TRUST FUND.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/11/2025

**File No.:** 386

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

### CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:

Rep. Sarah Keitt, 134th Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill establishes the Covered Connecticut Trust Fund, a separate non-lapsing account within the Grants and Restricted Accounts Fund. This fund helps state residents who are removed from other programs such as Medicaid. This bill also asks the Commissioner of Health Strategy and Commissioners of both DSS and DOI to develop a spending plan to sustain health care services should federal Medicaid and other federal subsidies decrease. This bill is intended to be a preemptive measure to possible federal cuts to many of our health care resources by allowing folks who are removed from Medicaid and other programs to still be covered.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:](#) opposes this bill for several reasons. Generally, non-lapsing funds for specific needs are problematic because they limit flexibility, and many programs are already competing for resources. This issue they say along with proposed federal cuts makes it especially concerning. They also add that the funding for this fund was not contemplated in the Governor's fund.

[Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner:](#) appreciates the intent, but opposes this bill. They begin explaining how Covered Connecticut relates to this fund and how it would direct the DOI to plan to use moneys through this

program. However, this non-lapsing fund would reduce flexibility to implement other programs with these resources and bind future hands of administrations and legislatures.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Liz Dupont-Diehl, Associate Director](#): comments that this bill was developed as an alternative Medicaid coverage if folks are removed from the program to save state money. This is as they put it a preemptive measure from the impending federal cuts to exchange subsidies. They suggest it would be better to simply put the people back on the Medicaid program.

[The Arc of Connecticut, Inc., Carol Scully, Director of Advocacy](#): comments that this bill is an alternative to Medicaid when they are dropped from the program; usually Huskey A recipients. They support providing a superior Medicaid coverage model instead of adding to the Covered CT exchange. However, they add if this is to protect against federal cuts that they suggest a trust fund with safeguards as a tool to mitigate harm.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Christian Talarski**

**Date: 4/1/25**