

Testimony of

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UHP3837

**Insurance & Real Estate and Labor & Public Employees Committee
Information Hearing on Worker Compensation Insurance & COVID-19**

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Good afternoon Senator Lesser, Senator Kushner, Representative Scanlon, Representative Porter and members of the Insurance & Real Estate and Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Diane Logan and I have been a registered Nurse at UCONN Health for 15 years. I am writing to discuss Workers Compensation Insurance and COVID-19 at UCONN Health

I work directly with patients and staff in a busy outpatient office that has a very high volume of patients. I began showing symptoms before it was mandatory to wear masks and socially distance. This was a time when CDC and hospital requirements seemed to change hourly. I became ill and was diagnosed positive and had a long and difficult road to recovery and was quarantined for close to 5 weeks. I received the 2 weeks of paid quarantine time allotted by Governor Lamont. I applied for worker's compensation due to my COVID-19 positive diagnosis exposure at work and was denied by Gallagher Bassett.

As an essential frontline medical worker who is working in close contact with multiple patients the exposure risk is obviously much greater than the average citizen. My job doesn't allow me to follow Governor Lamont's directive to Stay home and Stay Safe. All healthcare workers should be able to perform their jobs without fear and stress that if we become ill in the line of duty the loss of pay will negatively affect my family finances.

There is fear of the unknown complications this novel corona virus may have on my body and overall health in the future. We are in the infancy stage and as all vicious killer virus's it may mutate and evolve into greater side effects and complications. At this time there are studies showing that an infected person with severe respiratory infection may develop scarring in their lungs. Healthcare workers must be protected in the event of complications and long term side effects of this virus.

The General Assembly exists to serve its constituents and the public at large. They should support and push for protecting frontline workers who are uniquely trained to care for and serve the sick and dying during this Pandemic. Passing the bill would demonstrate that we are truly essential and not expendable. It would recognize that we are human beings who are also vulnerable to getting COVID-19. As an essential worker who knows I contracted this at work, the state of CT needs to establish a legal presumption to accept COVID-19 claims for all essential employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony.

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