



## Health Care Matters: Decisions This Month on Health Care Bills Will Affect All of Us

We can protect health care for Connecticut residents by:

### Putting Federal Protections Into Connecticut Law

We can no longer rely on the federal government to protect our rights to good health care and good health insurance plans. We need to:

- Require that health insurance plans sold in Connecticut cover Essential Health Benefits. Essential Health Benefits are what people expect health insurance to cover: emergency care and hospitalization, prescription drugs, maternity and newborn care, mental health services, managing chronic diseases, comprehensive coverage for children;
- Provide preventive services for women, children and adolescents at no cost;
- Ban annual and lifetime caps on Essential Health Benefits; and
- Ensure that people with pre-existing conditions can purchase health insurance

**Tell your legislators: To pass HB 5210 and include all these protections in the bill.**

### Restoring Medicaid/HUSKY Cuts Made Last Year

CT's Medicaid program (HUSKY) provides needed health care to over 800,000 people in CT. We need to restore damaging cuts made last year:

- Dramatic cuts to eligibility levels in the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) will affect over 113,000 elderly individuals and people with disabilities. MSP helps elderly individuals and people with disabilities on Medicare pay for needed care not covered by Medicare.
- Income eligibility changes in the HUSKY program will cause 13,000 parents and caregivers (over 90% working) to lose their HUSKY A coverage.
- 16,000 adults will lose access to comprehensive dental care and more will lose access to certain critical services.
- Cuts to reimbursement rates for primary care providers could lead to fewer providers in the HUSKY program.

**Tell your legislators: These cuts should be restored in a revision to the budget.**

### Addressing The Rising Costs Of Prescription Drugs

While everyone agrees that prescription drug prices are too high, three industries – pharmaceutical manufacturers, Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and insurance carriers – are each working to maintain their profits, rather than lower consumer costs.

**HB 5384** takes some first steps to address this issue by giving the Office of Health Strategy the authority to request that drug manufacturers justify large price increases; making the workings of PBMs more transparent; and giving consumers the benefit of rebates negotiated by PBMs.

**Tell your legislators: Pass HB 5384 with stronger consumer protections.**

### Exploring A New Way To Expand Coverage

We need to find new ways to provide quality, affordable health care coverage to people not eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. We can't expect initiatives to come from the national level. We should look to leadership in Connecticut to devise state-based solutions.

**HB 5463** would require the Department of Social Services, by January 2019, to develop and present to the legislature a plan for a public health insurance option that would build on the Medicaid and AHCT structures and would be known as HUSKY E.

**Tell your legislators: Pass HB 5463.**

PROTECT OUR CARE CT