



# Government-Run "Public Option" Health Care is Bad for Connecticut

The Connecticut General Assembly is considering a variety of "public option" proposals that would **destabilize the insurance market, threaten affordability, limit consumer choice, and create additional taxpayer burdens while at the same time undermining one of the state's largest employment sectors.**

## ***What is a "Public Option"?***

"Public Option" proposals come in many different forms, including opening up the State Employee/Partnership Plan, creating a "buy-in" program under the state's HUSKY/Medicaid program, or implementing a brand new, state-run, taxpayer-funded program that competes with the private insurance market. Regardless of the program, they all share one thing in common: expanding Connecticut's financial liability at a time when the state is already \$2 billion in debt. A "public option" is a **bad** option for Connecticut.

## ***The Danger of a "Buy-In."***

The Office of the Comptroller is proposing legislation to allow small businesses to buy into the State Employee/Partnership Plan, creating an even larger state-administered health care pool that puts more state tax dollars at-risk. Government doesn't have a great track record when it comes to efficiency and management. Consider that:

- Both Medicaid and Medicare (government-run programs) are significantly underfunded.
- Benefits under the State Employee/Partnership Plan far exceed the norm at tremendous cost to the state and its future unfunded liabilities.
- The Partnership Plan (Comptroller-run municipal program) is currently running \$10 million in the red.
- Connecticut is already \$2 billion in debt for FY 20.

**We can't afford more of the same.** The taxpayer's wallet is empty.

Legislators need to slow the "public option" train down before it runs Connecticut's economic recovery right off the rails.