



Susan Bysiewicz  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:  
March 13, 2008

For more information:  
Adam Joseph: (860) 509-6118  
Cell: (860) 817-4165

-PRESS RELEASE -

## CONNECTICUT'S SMALL BUSINESSES ONE STEP CLOSER TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

### BYSIEWICZ APPLAUDS LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE VOTE

**HARTFORD:** Sec. of the State Susan Bysiewicz is thrilled that today the Labor and Public Employees Committee voted 7-1 to approve H.B. No. 5536, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership. This bill aims to reduce health care costs to municipalities, small businesses (fewer than fifty employees) and not-for-profits by permitting them to voluntarily join the state employee insurance pool. The bill is now headed to the House floor for further consideration.

“Today, Connecticut moved one step closer to reigning in sky-rocketing health care costs for small businesses, not-for-profits and municipalities,” said Bysiewicz “Lowering health care costs is good for the economy and is good for taxpayers. By expanding the purchasing power of the state pool, we can drive down health care costs for the small business community that is responsible for more than 90% of all new jobs in our state.”

The bill's author, House Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan, and Secretary of the State Bysiewicz have traveled across Connecticut conducting roundtables for small business owners, elected officials, and not-for-profit organizations.

“Majority Leader Donovan and I share the mutual goal of helping small businesses expand and create more jobs for Connecticut,” said Bysiewicz. “A comprehensive and thoughtful approach to making health insurance more affordable for small businesses would drastically reduce the number of uninsured residents in the State of Connecticut. I commend Majority Leader Donovan, the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership Working

Group, and the Labor and Public Employees Committee for their commitment to this critical issue.”

The Health Insurance Policy Council in its 2007 report “A Framework for Health Care Reform for Connecticut” cites that 52.2% of uninsured workers and dependents are in firms with less than 50 employees which confirms that a large part of Connecticut’s uninsured population is found with small employers.