

September 9, 2016

The Honorable Nancy Wyman  
State Capitol  
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Lt. Governor Wyman:

We are writing as independent consumer advocates and providers regarding the Health Care Cabinet's plan to develop recommendations for health reform in our state. No one appreciates the need for health system reform more than consumers and providers. Consumers' lives depend on a highly functioning system and consumers are the ultimate payers of all health care.

Consumers and providers, along with many other stakeholder groups, have raised significant concerns with the Strawman proposal offered by consultants to the Cabinet on July 12, 2016. You will be receiving separate feedback and written comments from many of us. The proposal is ambitious, complex and very broad. As proposed, the plan would touch countless, intersecting issues and stakeholder groups across the state. Unfortunately, it also does not reflect much of what is working well in Connecticut. The risks of unintended consequences and losing ground are very high.

We understand that the Cabinet will be discussing the proposal in two meetings this month. However, given the proposal's expansive scope and the importance of reform, we urge the Cabinet to take more time to fully vet the proposal to ensure the recommendations will be effective, protect success and feasible. That should include gathering public input, considering other options, and consulting with stakeholders beyond state government and the Cabinet's membership.

We are eager to assist and participate in that process and look forward to building a better proposal—one that recognizes both the strengths and challenges unique to our state. Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health of every Connecticut resident.

Sincerely,

Ellen Andrews  
CT Health Policy Project

Shirley Girouard  
Professor & Associate Dean for Research and Innovations  
College of Nursing, SUNY Downstate

Kathi Liberman and Ellen Cyr  
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Karyl Lee Hall and Kathy Flaherty  
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cc: Health Care Cabinet