

An Open Letter to House Speaker Chris Donovan, Members of the Connecticut General Assembly, Governor Dannel Malloy, and SustiNet Board members,

It is with great disappointment that The Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (CCACC), which represents Connecticut's Cardiologists and Cardiac Care Associates, must withdraw our prior support for the SustiNet Health Partnership plan contained in House Bill 6305. We withdraw support as a direct result of a recent amendment introduced by members of the legislature's Public Health Committee earlier this month.

SustiNet is a proposed health insurance plan that is designed to offer an affordable alternative to for-profit insurance policies. SustiNet would have helped reduce unnecessary and costly "defensive" medical testing through the development of science based treatment guidelines and a built-in protection against medical liability for SustiNet physicians who adhered to these guidelines.

Unfortunately this amendment eliminated these protections and, if enacted, would result in a dramatic increase in the cost of healthcare in Connecticut and expose patients to more tests of limited value. Many physicians will simply choose not to participate in SustiNet under circumstances in which adherence to guidelines may be required, without the legal protections needed to make such adherence viable.

Without these protections, we believe that SustiNet will share the fate of the disastrous Charter Oak insurance plan in which very few doctors are participating due to its poorly conceived support for quality medical providers.

The CCACC was very excited to be an early supporter of SustiNet, and we would like to be able to support it again – but in its current form we cannot do so. By restoring SustiNet to its original version the legislature and the Administration can ensure that Connecticut cardiologists and the entire medical community can provide more families with the quality, affordable healthcare services they need and deserve.

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Paid for by the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Cardiology



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