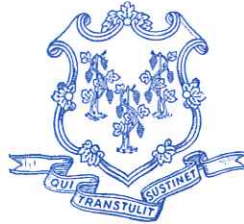


SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Eleventh District

New Haven, Hamden & North Haven



State of Connecticut

SENATE

State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

132 Fort Hale Road
New Haven, Connecticut 06512

Home: 203-468-8829

Capitol: 860-240-8600

Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420

www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov

Good Morning Lt Gov. Wyman and members of the Healthcare Cabinet. First I would like to thank you for holding this forum on the Bailit recommendations to reform Connecticut's healthcare system. I sincerely appreciate the continued work and engagement of the Cabinet in the ongoing process that was initiated in PA 15-146. The vision for this study was to have an independent look at our healthcare system that could suggest appropriate reform.

While last week's election will change the future of healthcare policy at the federal level, I believe that Connecticut must continue on its path to improve our healthcare system. I appreciate the Bailit model's transformational strategies for delivery and payment systems which strive to place the highest priority on quality and value.

We all realize that current healthcare cost increases are unsustainable. It is also true that cost and quality are not well correlated in healthcare. Oddly, the more expensive care is not generally the highest quality care. Healthcare cost inflation is having extremely detrimental effects on many Connecticut citizens. I am hopeful that what we all learn from this study and these recommendations will help us craft legislation that will improve the quality and lower the cost of healthcare in our state.

I believe that the inclusion of social determinants of health within our healthcare system (and specifically in the CCO model) is long overdue; keeping people in good health so they don't require healthcare services is obviously a far better option than waiting until they require treatment. Similarly, the emphasis on preventative care and coordination of care will improve quality of life and reduce healthcare costs.

The inclusion of quality measures and access to data is vital to improving the system; this approach will be augmented by the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee's work. In addition, the recommendations regarding competition and increasing the power of the Attorney General should fit well with the upcoming recommendations of the CON task force.

I look forward to seeing the final recommendations from the Cabinet and drafting legislation informed by this study to make our healthcare system provide better quality care at a more affordable price for Connecticut residents.