



Connecticut AFL-CIO

FACT SHEET #1

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H.B. 5690 AAC Fair Share Health Care

What does the bill do?

It requires all large companies with 2500 or more employees to spend a certain percentage of their payroll on providing health care benefits for their employees. If companies spend less than the required amount, they could either increase benefits for their employees or contribute the difference to Medicaid.

Why support Fair Share Health Care?

It's good policy. Workers, taxpayers, and other businesses are forced to pick up a \$113 billion tab for health care when profitable companies don't pay their fair share.

Taxpayers pay \$21 Billion: *A recent Commonwealth Fund study found that public programs like Medicaid and SCHIP— and consequently taxpayers -- were forced to pick up \$8 billion in covering workers who lack employer coverage. And charity care and bad debt cost taxpayers \$13 billion each year.*

Workers Pay \$61 Billion: *Workers who lack job-based coverage pay \$58 billion in out of pocket expenses and \$3 billion in private individual insurance premiums. Workers and their families who currently have private coverage are forced to pay higher premiums in order to cover the costs of workers without adequate health care. A recent study by Families USA found health insurance premiums for families who have employer-sponsored coverage, on av-*

erage, are \$922 higher due to the cost of health care for uninsured.

It's pro business. Businesses that provide health care are forced to spend an estimated \$31 billion to cover cost-shifting businesses' workers through dependent coverage. That's in addition to the estimated \$150 billion they spend on their own workers' health care costs. This bill is a "plus" for helping to attract big business to the state -- big businesses moving into the state will know that they do not have to subsidize other major businesses that do not pay fair health care benefits.

It's relief for those who have health insurance. The state's largest and most profitable companies need to do their fair share so that the rest of us don't have to absorb their employees' health care costs. Every time an uninsured worker goes to the ER and cannot afford to pay for their treatment, we all pick up the tab. Non-insuring and underinsuring large companies are socking it to small companies and those of us with insurance.

It's popular. In a recent national Zogby survey commissioned by WakeUp WalMart: 64% of all voters supported fair share health care legislation.

78% of Democrats
68% of Independents
68% of Moderate Republicans

Special points of interest:

- In 2003, 357,000 Connecticut residents were uninsured.
- Between 2000 and 2003, the number of Connecticut residents with employer-provided health care fell by 58,000, a 2.6 percent drop.