Written Testimony for the Informational Public Hearing on Connecticut Healthcare Affordability
June 23, 2026
David M. Krol, MD, MPH, FAAP

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, specifically focused on the portion of the hearing titled, “Successful Value-Based Care Programs in Connecticut: What's working in the Nutmeg State”. I am Dr. David Krol and I serve as the medical director of the Connecticut Children’s Care Network. I am a pediatrician, a resident of Connecticut, and a parent.

The Connecticut Children’s Care Network (Network) is the only pediatric-specific clinically integrated network in Connecticut. The Network was established in 2019 to improve patient care for children and adolescents around the region. It operates as a primary care pediatrician-led organization that includes both pediatric subspecialists and community-based primary care physicians. Currently, the Network includes 41 community-based pediatric practices that represent 253 primary care providers working in 55 locations throughout the state. The Network is completely self-sustaining and does not receive funding from Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Through data analytics, care coordination, and quality improvement support, we help practices successfully navigate value-based care. These efforts improve outcomes and reduce unnecessary healthcare utilization for both publicly and commercially-insured children.

So, what does success look like? Since joining Wave 3 of the Person-Centered Medical Home Plus (PCMH+) program in 2020, the Network generated nearly $89 million in savings for Connecticut's Medicaid program while achieving some of the state's strongest quality and utilization outcomes. From 2020-2023 (the state has not released 2024 comparative data), our Network consistently had the lowest rates of Potentially Preventable Admissions and of Emergency Department Visits per 1000 member months. These measures are indicative of effective primary care, demonstrating that children received timely, coordinated care that prevented avoidable hospitalizations and emergency department visits.

In 2024, the state implemented a Person-Centered Primary Care Measure survey to understand Husky member opinions and perceptions on the care they received from their primary care provider. The Network earned the highest average scores for both Adult and Child member surveys among all PCMH+ participating entities, reflecting the positive experiences of families receiving care through our practices.

Our practices have consistently demonstrated exceptional quality performance in commercial value-based care programs, as well. In 2023, the first year of the State of Connecticut Primary Care Initiative Program through Anthem, the Network was the highest-ranking pediatric provider group, based on quality. In a recent article in the Hartford Business Journal, it was reported that Anthem “named [the Network] among the top-performing care providers in the nation—and the only one in Connecticut—through [their] second annual Care Provider Recognition Program”. To be selected, providers must rank in the top 1% nationally based on quality.

These results were not achieved by chance. They reflect years of investment in practice transformation, data infrastructure, and partnership between providers and the families they serve.

The Connecticut Children’s Care Network is a shining example of what’s working in the Nutmeg State when it comes to value-based care. Please keep pediatric populations and the providers who care for them in any and all value-based programs that the state develops. Our Network pediatricians would welcome the opportunity to partner with State leaders in the development of pediatric payment models that deliver the access and quality that children and families deserve.