



Governor Ned Lamont State of Connecticut



FACT SHEET
2022 Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 15 GOVERNOR'S BILL *AN ACT ENCOURAGING PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE CARE*

Primary care and preventive screenings save lives and help families reduce healthcare costs. Governor Lamont proposes creating incentives for residents to participate in a health enhancement program and making it easier for them to contact a primary care provider for an in-person or telehealth visit.

The Problem

Life is busy and America's healthcare system is often hard to navigate. As a result, too many of us put off lifesaving primary care and preventive screenings. When we don't have a relationship with a primary care provider, we often have no choice but to visit hospital emergency departments for care that could have been provided in a less stressful and more affordable setting. Up to two-thirds of ED visits are to treat issues that could have been addressed equally effectively in a primary care setting at as little as one-tenth the price.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Governor Lamont proposes encouraging primary and preventive care by having insurance companies adopt health enhancement programs (HEP) similar to the program available to public employees and dependents insured through the Office of the State Comptroller. The state HEP provides financial benefits like lower premium payments, deductibles, and copays to members who complete age- and gender-appropriate exams like primary care visits, dental cleanings, and cancer screenings. The program effectively encourages patients to schedule lifesaving visits, provides them opportunities to significantly reduce monthly healthcare costs, and reduces costs in the long term by catching and treating issues early. Every Connecticut resident deserves access to the same type of proven program that state employees enjoy.

Governor Lamont also proposes making it easier for patients in need to contact their primary care provider, find a new such provider, or receive assistance via telehealth. By ensuring a telehealth hotline and either a patient's designated PCP or a hotline capable of recommending new PCPs are listed directly on insurance cards, the state can help put care at the fingertips of those who need it, when they need it.

Contacts:

Governor's Office: Jessica Tyburski, 959-255-4115
Office of Policy and Management: Jeff Beckham, 860-524-7376 • State Capitol, Room 406

www.governor.ct.gov • @GovNedLamont