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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Josh Hershman
Commissioner
Insurance Department
153 Market Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Commissioner Hershman,

I strongly urge the Insurance Department to significantly reduce or completely eliminate these outrageous price hikes to preserve the health and safety of our communities.

Millions of Americans across the country are struggling with the rising costs of basic necessities, now more than ever, families cannot afford to also bear the financial burden of higher health insurance premiums. That is why I am deeply alarmed by the double-digit rate increases proposed by insurance companies operating in Connecticut¹. To be clear, these rates are unsustainable and a blow to hard-working families, especially as major carriers like Elevance Health² and United Health Care³ continue to report billions in profits. We cannot allow insurance companies to extort consumers to line up their own pockets.

In the last year, I've heard from a number of constituents who are deeply concerned about their healthcare costs. These proposed rate increases are not abstract percentages; they have a direct impact on nearly 220,000 Connecticut residents who depend on these plans to pay for critically important, even life-saving health services⁴. The increases also have an acute impact on small businesses who cannot invest in expanding their operations and hiring more people when they are forced to absorb new health insurance costs for their current employees. If these rates

¹ "Connecticut Insurance Department Releases Health Insurance Rate Request Filing for 2027". CT Insurance Department. June 5, 2026. https://portal.ct.gov/cid/press-releases/2026-press-releases/2026-06-05-aca?language=en_US

² Japsen, Bruce. "Elevance Health Profits Eclipse \$1.7 Billion Despite Elevated Costs". Forbes. April 22, 2026. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2026/04/22/elevance-health-profits-eclipse-17-billion-despite-elevated-costs/>

³ Pifer Parduhn, Rebecca. "UnitedHealth hikes profit outlook after better than expected first quarter". Healthcare Dive. April 21, 2026. <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/unitedhealth-hikes-2026-profit-outlook-q1-results/817993/>

⁴ Bordonaro, Greg. "CT health insurers seek double-digit rate hikes for 2027; up to 23.3% increase for small businesses". Hartford Business. June 8, 2026. <https://hartfordbusiness.com/article/ct-health-insurers-seek-double-digit-rate-hikes-for-2027-up-to-23-3-increase-for-small-businesses/>

are approved, many families and small businesses might not be able to retain their coverage—further destabilizing the market and raising the costs for everyone else.

As you know, under Connecticut law, the Insurance Department must determine that these requested rates are not “excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory⁵.” Last year, the Insurance Department used this authority to successfully reject requested increases, saving consumers nearly \$125 million⁶. That would not have been possible without proper oversight. It is imperative that the Insurance Department aggressively review these requests and the underlying assumptions to cut or eliminate any increases.

I urge you to do all that you can to keep healthcare in reach for Connecticut small businesses and families. Health insurance should never be cost-prohibitive and that starts with keeping rates as affordable as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Blumenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate

⁵ Reger, Alex and Orlando, James. “Health Insurance Transparency and Disclosure and Other Questions”. CT OLR Research Report. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/rpt/2016-R-0092.htm>

⁶ “Connecticut Insurance Commissioner: Department Rejects and Modifies Every Health Insurance Rate Increase Request for 2026”. CT Insurance Department. September 10, 2025. https://portal.ct.gov/cid/press-releases/2025-press-releases/2025-09-10?language=en_US