

# health care

Parents, concerned citizens and business leaders, government officials and elected representatives need to know the facts - and how to address these critical issues.

## The Issue

The lack of health insurance has serious health and financial consequences. People without health insurance are more likely to delay preventive health care and medical treatment until there is an emergency that requires more expensive care. They are also less likely to fill needed prescriptions or get a necessary medical test because of cost. As a result, the uninsured are more likely to suffer from poor health and are up to three times more likely to die earlier than those with health insurance. People who work in small businesses and who are self-employed are at high risk of being uninsured.

Each year, it costs the state of Connecticut up to \$1.3 billion to pay for the direct and indirect costs of health care for the uninsured.

## Recommendations

Adopt universal health care coverage that is consistent with the principles of the Institute of Medicine: comprehensive; affordable, sustainable; continual regardless of employment or marital status; and promotes high quality health care.

HB 5536, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership, would help increase access to affordable health care insurance by opening the state employee insurance plan to municipal employees, small business owners and nonprofits.

# 325,000

Connecticut residents under the age of 65 do not have health insurance, including 49,000 children.

# 2 out of 3

CT residents without health insurance are working.

# 60%

of employees working in small businesses or who are self-employed do not have health benefits through their jobs.

# 9,400

Greater Bridgeport residents are self-employed.

