

WITNESSES

Nancy Davenport-Ennis is a cancer survivor and the Founding Executive Director of the National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF). Ms. Davenport-Ennis also established the Patient Advocate Foundation, a direct patient services non-profit organization, in 1996. She serves as a Commissioner on the American Health Information Community (AHIC) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and is a Co-Chair of the AHIC Consumer Empowerment Working Group. Ms. Davenport-Ennis holds a B.A. in English from Campbell University.

Rita Gould is a retired professor and diabetes patient who has struggled with finding and keeping health insurance. When she needed to cover a six-month gap between the end of her husband's insurance and the start of her Medicare coverage, she was told that her diabetes was a serious enough pre-existing condition to deny her coverage, even though she had never missed a day of work or been hospitalized because of it. When she finally got coverage through Connecticut's high-risk state pool, premiums cost \$1,300 a month—more than twice what she had paid under her husband's plan. She received her BS from Central Connecticut State University and a MS from the University of Bridgeport.

James Stirling is CEO of Stirling Benefits, a third-party administrator of self-insured health plans. Mr. Stirling is also President of the Society of Professional Benefit Administrators and formerly served on the Business Advisory Council of the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. He was Secretary of the Connecticut Benefit Brokers from 2002-2007 and is a member of the New Haven Health Care Council and Milford Legislative Action Committee. Mr. Stirling received his B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1985.

Donna Horoschak is Vice President for Product Policy at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP). Prior to joining AHIP, Ms. Horoschak spent 20 years with Wausau Insurance Companies, including heading up its government affairs department and leading the legal team. She received her undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University and her law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Robert Tessier is Executive Director of The Connecticut Coalition of Taft-Hartley Health Funds. Mr. Tessier previously served as the President of the Coalition for eight years and was the administrator for the new England Health Care Employees Welfare and Pension Funds from 2000 to 2007. He served in a similar capacity for the Connecticut Carpenters Health, Pension, Annuity and Apprentice Training Funds from 1995 to 2000. Prior to that, Mr. Tessier served as Legislative Director and Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Labor under then-Governor Lowell Weicker.

John Farrell founded J.J. Farrell Associates in 1992 and has been representing hospitals and health systems since then. Prior to founding his company, Mr. Farrell served as Commissioner of Hospitals and Health Care for two Connecticut Governors. Before beginning his career in public service, Mr. Farrell was a Division Director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Connecticut and financial manager for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In 1995, he helped form United Risk Assessment and Management LLC, a health care actuarial firm, which merged with Urix LLC in 2002.