



## State + Federal Health Care Reform = A Win for Connecticut's Economy & Health

**SustiNet**, Connecticut's 2009 law and the new federal health care reform add up to peace of mind for families and businesses by providing health care that:

- Offers quality health care choices for us all
- Gives us more for our money
- Keeps us healthy and takes care of us when we're sick

SustiNet (CT Public Act 09-148) positions our state to be a national leader in health care reform by taking a bold, comprehensive approach to controlling health care costs, improving quality and increasing access.

Combined with the new federal health care reform laws, Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (HR 3590) and Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HR 4872), SustiNet puts Connecticut in the front of the line to leverage more federal resources to boost the state's economy and help us achieve quality, affordable health care we can count on.

## SustiNet in Brief

### ***Offers a Smart Choice That Works for Everyone***

Starting in 2012, SustiNet would be open to people without insurance and to small businesses to join voluntarily. This will offer people left behind by the private health insurance market an opportunity to access a quality, affordable choice *before* the uninsured are required to buy insurance in the insurance market exchanges mandated by federal law beginning in 2014.

SustiNet will offer a comprehensive, affordable benefit package – the same health insurance benefits as a typical large employer in Connecticut. The plan will not cut corners on care or include expensive co-pays and deductibles.

### ***Leverages Bargaining Power to Control Costs***

SustiNet ensures that the state wisely uses the dollars it is already spending on state employees, HUSKY and Medicaid by uniting them into a large self-insured health plan.

This will create a critical mass of SustiNet-insured residents giving the state leverage to control costs and improve how health care is delivered in our state.

SustiNet's bargaining power will expand as it is opened up to residents and businesses of Connecticut. Beginning in 2012, the state will offer a new SustiNet health plan choice – as an alternative to private insurance being sold in the market – to:

- the uninsured
- sole proprietors and other self-employed people
- small businesses, municipalities, and non-profit employers

By 2014, it would be available as a choice for the uninsured, regardless of pre-existing conditions.

### ***Improves Health and Saves Money Over Time***

SustiNet does more than offer access to health insurance. It invests in improving the care and health of Connecticut's residents while controlling costs. Key features of SustiNet's health care delivery reforms include:

- a health care provider working with every enrollee to coordinate their overall care – called a “medical home” – to enhance the quality and effectiveness of care, focus on preventing illness and enable better management of chronic health problems
- improved public health programs and prevention programs to fight obesity and tobacco use
- implementation of 21st-Century health care, including electronic medical records to promote coordination of care and avoid duplication of tests or unnecessary procedures

The goal is also to break down barriers to care by increasing provider reimbursement rates for Medicaid saving money and improving health over time.