

February 7, 2022



900 Cottage Grove Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

RE: **Opposition SB 199**

On behalf of Cigna and the thousands of Kansas lives that we cover, we request your opposition to SB 199 due to its potential for negatively impacting Kansans and the Kansas Insurance Exchange.

Cigna is a global health services company dedicated to improving the health, well-being, and peace of mind of those we serve. Cigna covers more than **180 million customer and patient relationships** in more than **30 countries and jurisdictions**, and has a global workforce of more than **70,000 employees, including hundreds in Kansas**, Cigna is dedicated to living our mission and being champions for our customers and communities and working together in close partnership with our colleagues, customers, providers, clients, and communities to create personalized solutions and advance whole-person health.

On behalf of its members, Cigna advocates for a sound and competitive health insurance market that maximizes private market competition, consumer choice and affordable coverage options. Cigna entered the Kansas Insurance Exchange in 2020¹ and has been able to offer ACA compliant health insurance products to hundreds of Kansans over the past few years. Cigna also employs more than three hundred workers throughout the State.

We believe SB 199 will negatively impact vulnerable Kansans and act as a potential market disrupter--to the detriment of many. A study by U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce study² found that short-term limited duration (STLD) plans tend to systematically discriminate against individuals with pre-existing conditions, and against women. Typically, the offerings have major coverage limitations that may not always be clear in marketing materials—making it difficult for consumers to know exactly what they are buying. Further, it was never the intent for STLD to be anything other than *short*.

In 2020, in a published article, the Commonwealth Fund³ pointed out that while federal guidance requires private health insurers to cover COVID-19 testing and cost-sharing for related services, this requirement DOES NOT extend to short-term plans, which claim to be covering *some* costs but not all. STLD plans were reviewed and for 12 short-term plans currently being sold in Georgia, Louisiana, and Ohio, the people enrolled in those plans have far less financial protection if they need treatment for COVID-19 than people enrolled in ACA plans.

¹ <https://www.healthinsurance.org/kansas-state-health-insurance-exchange/>

² <https://energycommerce.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/ec-investigation-finds-millions-of-americans-enrolled-in-junk-health>


³ <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2020/age-covid-19-short-term-plans-fall-short-consumers>

The disruption caused by SB 199 will take membership out of the already-existing Kansas Insurance Exchange, where most members receive subsidy-help to assist with premiums. If members were to move to STLD plans, they would not receive assistance with their premiums and the Kansas Insurance Exchange would essentially become a Risk Pool instead of a competitive marketplace for individuals to purchase valuable coverage.

On behalf of Cigna and our Kansas members, we request you oppose SB 199. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Larrie Ann Brown, our local Kansas legislative counsel or me at kandice.sanaie@cigna.com or by phone at (512) 426.6761.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kandice K. Sanaie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kandice" and last name "Sanaie" clearly distinguishable.

Kandice K. Sanaie
State Government Affairs
Cigna Legal