

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Testimony on House Bill No. 5378
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
March 3, 2026

Co-Chairs Wood and Cabrera, Vice-Chairs Barry and Anwar, Ranking Members Pavalok-D'Amato and Hwang, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~117 land trusts. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization operating statewide. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut.

Thank you for this opportunity to present general comments on behalf of CLCC regarding HB 5378, **An Act Concerning Self-Funded Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements and Requiring A Study of the Feasibility of Establishing the Connecticut Option Program and Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements.**

Most Connecticut land trusts operate as small nonprofit organizations with limited staff and administrative capacity, and many face challenges in offering affordable health benefits. As the statewide association serving land trusts, CLCC is particularly interested in whether the concept of association health plans or Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWAs), which could allow smaller employers to pool risk and access purchasing power similar to larger employers, could offer a health benefit option for land trusts and their employees. Such an approach may help strengthen organizational sustainability across the land trust sector by improving access to affordable benefits while reducing administrative burdens on individual organizations.

We are therefore interested in a study of the feasibility, structure, and safeguards associated with this approach and look forward to learning whether it may present a viable opportunity for Connecticut's land trusts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

