

Senate Bill No. 1

My name is Liza LeGrier. I am the Executive Director of Citizens for Quality Sickle Cell Care. I am here as a representative for people affected by the Sickle Cell Disease, as a mother of two young children who had been uninsured for 3 years of their lives and a daughter of parents who are drowning under the weight of prescription costs and medical co pays under Medicare including part D.

Sickle Cell Disease is a debilitating and painful group of genetically inherited red blood cell disorders that individuals carry through their lifetime. Sickle Cell disease affects about 72,000 people in the United States. Some of the complications from sickle cells blocking blood flow and breaking apart include pain episodes, strokes, increased infections, leg ulcers, bone damage, eye damage, kidney damage, and blood blockage in the spleen or liver. According to Connecticut Hospital Information Management Exchange (CHIME) data there were 1604 visits to the emergency room departments for SCD persons of all ages costing 14.5 million dollars. Affordable, quality healthcare coverage is a need for people with Sickle Cell Disease.

As a mother, that was working three part time jobs, I found out during the application process for HUSKY that my children's doctor did not accept that plan. Instead of pulling my children out of the care center that they were familiar and was familiar with them, I went into an increased prevention mode - tons of orange juice. My children's doctors office allowed me to pay a discounted rate for their care, that coupled with free medication samples for their Asthma allowed me to get through this crisis. Affordable, quality healthcare coverage is a need for my family.

My parents have "maxed out" most of their credit cards due to the robbing of Peter to pay Paul. They constantly ask themselves how they ended up working all their lives only to be elderly and disabled in a country that is providing them with limited care at a maximum cost. Accessible, quality healthcare coverage is a need for my parents.

Accessible, quality health coverage is a need, not a want for people of Connecticut. I ask that you let that be your outlook as you move forward in providing comprehensive care for all.