



**Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
February 3, 2008**

5021

### **Testimony of the American Cancer Society**

The American Cancer Society is urging your support of **HB 5021, AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OSTOMY-RELATED SUPPLIES.**

There are several types of ostomy procedures that allow an individual who has had a surgically created opening in the body, to allow the discharge of bodily waste. Many individuals who go through ostomy procedures are ones that are required to do so because of the negative effects of cancer. As a result of various cancer treatments, an ostomy device has been added to allow the individual to continue their normal lives after treatment.

There are a variety of ostomy procedures, the most common include colostomy, ileostomy, and urostomy. A colostomy is created when a portion of the colon or the rectum is removed, often do to the removal of cancerous polyps within the colon. The remaining colon is brought to the abdominal wall where the ostomy device can be attached. An ileostomy is a surgically created opening in the small intestine. A urostomy is a general term for a surgical procedure that diverts urine away from a diseased or defective bladder. Many individual that have this type of device have been victims of bladder cancer.

An individual that does have an ostomy, is required to have a pouch system that collects the bodily waste. This pouch system is typically purchased by the individual and can become quite costly. HB 5021 will ensure that insurance coverage is granted to individuals that require these supplies. This legislation is helpful because many people can only afford a portion of the supplies, however this bill would increase the minimal amount from \$1,000 to \$5,000, which an amount that would cover most of a patients related costs. In this current economic situation, such a savings would help the most effected individuals.

Please support this piece of legislation so that individuals with ostomy devices can adequately afford the devices that they require.