

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL



5021

55 Elm Street
P.O. Box 120
Hartford, CT 06141-0120

Office of The Attorney General
State of Connecticut

*TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3, 2009*

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 5021, An Act Expanding Health Insurance Coverage for Ostomy-Related Supplies.

This legislation increases the maximum health insurance coverage limitation to \$5,000 for medically necessary appliances and supplies relating to an ostomy, including but not limited to collection devices, irrigation equipment and supplies, skin barriers and skin protectors.

Ostomy supplies are a critical, integral, necessary and ongoing part of certain surgeries. In 2000, the General Assembly required health insurers to cover such supplies up to a maximum of \$1,000 annually. The cost of medical supplies is increasing rapidly each year, dramatically reducing the practical benefits of the 2000 law.

The current law already requires that any supplies covered under this insurance mandate be medically necessary. Yet, my office has received complaints of insurer rejection of ostomy supplies as cosmetic -- an incredibly unfair and misguided understanding of ostomy supplies.

I urge the committee to favorably consider House Bill 5021 and send a clear message to insurers to cover such supplies. Patients deserve nothing less.