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**DEVAL L. PATRICK**  
GOVERNOR

**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Joseph Crisco  
Chairman, Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Crisco,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 290, *An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage for Bone Marrow Testing* and its House counterpart, House Bill 5024.

Over the past four years, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of the adoption of similar legislation in this state. Senate Bill 290, which you are considering in the near future, would mandate insurance coverage for bone marrow testing, a law that we currently have in Massachusetts.

John Gallivan, who is now a Connecticut resident, formerly lived in my hometown of Worcester. I came to know John when he served as a legislative aide to then State Rep. James Leary, who is now my Chief of Staff. Less than four years ago, John's wife, Gina, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). After receiving chemotherapy treatment at both Hartford Hospital and at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, it was determined that Gina would need a bone marrow transplant.

Over the course of the next several weeks, Jim and John organized bone marrow drives for Gina in both Worcester and Boston. Between the two drives, nearly three hundred people were added in the International Bone Marrow Registry, largely due to the fact that under Massachusetts law the costs of such testing were covered by insurance.

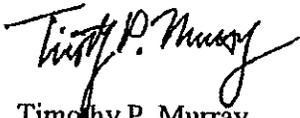
John also organized a bone marrow drive in Wethersfield, Connecticut. The major difference was that people who wanted to be tested in Connecticut had to pay out of their own pockets, unlike in Massachusetts, where insurance companies were mandated to cover the cost of testing.

Connecticut is one of only two states in New England that have not passed this law, and I urge you to do so. Your committee knows the stories of those who struggle with serious medical conditions. The cost of prescriptions, transportation to doctor's offices, and housing for family members are just a few of the hardships faced by many families.

Adoption of this legislation would allow similarly affected Connecticut families to avoid one additional burden. Moreover, it will help to increase the number of donors in the international registry, increasing the likelihood of finding matches for individuals afflicted with leukemia.

It is my hope that Connecticut will join Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Maine in enacting this vital piece of legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Timothy P. Murray  
Lieutenant Governor

cc: Senate Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee