



Quality is Our Bottom Line

459

Insurance & Real Estate Committee

Public Hearing

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Connecticut Association of Health Plans

Testimony in Opposition to

S. B. No. 459 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING COPAYMENTS FOR PREVENTIVE CARE.

The Connecticut Association of Health Plans respectfully urges the Committee's rejection of SB 459 AA Prohibiting Copayments for Preventive Care.

Many health plans are beginning to move in this direction as a way to incorporate value based health design into the coverage system - meaning that the right financial incentives are aligned to encourage behavior that will keep members healthily particularly in the case of various chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiology care. This has been one of the core elements considered in discussions by the HealthFirst Authority and we very much support the concept. Having said that, we believe mandating a statutory definition of this nature would prove not only difficult, but also expensive adding appreciable cost to the delivery system that will ultimately be passed onto consumers via higher premiums.

The ability of health plans to incorporate cost sharing mechanisms into various benefit design packages is critically important to providing affordable insurance products. Removing flexibility in the process, particularly when costs have not proven prohibitive, makes little sense at a time when the state at-large is attempting to address issues related to universal coverage.

It's also important to note that passage of this legislation could potentially remove certain products from the marketplace in that it could be interpreted to mandate first dollar coverage which would prevent the sale of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) in Connecticut. We respectfully urge your opposition to SB 459.

Thank you for your consideration.