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Testimony  
IN SUPPORT OF  
**S. B. No. 459 (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING COPAYMENTS FOR  
PREVENTIVE CARE**

Dear members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. The American Lung Association in Connecticut strongly supports S.B.459, An Act Prohibiting Co-payments for Preventive Care. We will limit our comments to one aspect of the proposal, the prohibition of co-payments for tobacco treatment services. There is no more cost effective health care intervention than helping a person quit smoking. The majority of our public health resources are focused on helping young people avoid smoking and motivating those who smoke to quit. Once someone has made the decision to quit, it is sound public policy to remove all the barriers that stand in the way of the person being successful. The US Public Health Service has issued guidelines for tobacco treatment and a cornerstone of these recommendations is removal of barriers like co-payments.

We believe that given the significant smoking-related health care costs in Connecticut, it is both sound health policy and sound fiscal policy to pass this measure. In addition, we urge you to undertake a review of the State Medicaid program's position on tobacco treatment. Put simply, Connecticut has the worst benefit in the nation. There is no coverage for tobacco treatment for those covered by the Medicaid program. From both a disease prevention and cost-containment point of view this is short-sighted policy.

Thank you.

Margaret LaCroix  
American Lung Association in Connecticut

For more than 100 years, the American Lung Association and Lung Association affiliates throughout the United States have worked together in the fight against lung disease.

CURES  
CLEAN AIR  
SMOKEFREE KIDS

*Improving Life,  
One Breath at a Time*