

Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians

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Statement concerning

Senate Bill 459 – An Act Prohibiting Copayments for Preventive Care

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

January 27, 2009

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians on Senate Bill 459 – An Act Prohibiting Co-payments for Preventive Care.

Senate Bill 459 prohibits managed care companies from imposing a copayment, deductible or other out-of-pocket expense for preventive care services. This would include charges for annual physicals and periodic health evaluations, including tests and diagnostic procedures ordered in connection with routine examinations such as annual physicals; routine prenatal and well-child care; child and adult immunizations; tobacco cessation programs; and obesity weight-loss programs. While we believe this to be a good idea as research has shown that increased cost sharing discourages people from seeking necessary care, we do have one concern. The bill before you does not specify what happens when managed care companies are prohibited from requiring the copayment – does the physician lose that payment and bare the economic brunt or does the managed care company reimburse the physician? We ask that before passing this bill out of committee, you clarify this point. To ask physicians to bare the financial brunt of this bill is unfair given the financial lose we currently take on Medicaid, Medicare and dually eligible patients and even patients who have private insurance whose claims are routinely denied.

We look forward to working with this Committee throughout the 2009 session to help guarantee the best possible health care for all Connecticut patients.

For more information, please call:

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