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6240

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**Statement  
Of  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
On  
HB 6240 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Prescription Drugs For Persons  
With Autism  
And  
SB 460 An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage For Dependents.**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and members of the Insurance Committee, my name is Christine Cappiello and I am the Director of Government Relations for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut. I am here today to speak on these bills.

We are opposed to these bills because it seeks to add a new for all individuals and group policies, including the State of Connecticut State Employees Health Insurance Plan that would further increase their costs. Mandates remove any choice that employers or individuals might have in purchasing health care. Our goal as a managed care organization is to provide a comprehensive meaningful set of benefits to individuals and employers purchasing our product. How we accomplish this goal changes as the needs and desires of the market changes. Mandating benefits take away the flexibility insurers have in developing products in response to the needs of the marketplace. The cost of mandates may cause the purchasers of health care, specifically employers to stop offering health insurance all together.

We would respectfully request that the committee not move forward with these bills.