

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 3, 2009

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Testimony of Joyce Grohe

Support of HB 5024, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Bone Marrow Testing.

Support of SB 290, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Bone Marrow Testing.

Good Morning Chairman Crisco and Chairman Fontana and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Joyce Grohe and I would like to urge you to support **SB 290** and **HB 5024**, both concerning health care coverage for bone marrow testing.

I am an American Cancer Society volunteer and have been an advocate for many years, sharing my story with elected officials in Hartford and Washington D.C. I am here to serve as a voice for others that can no longer share their concern for cancer. For me, this bill is of particular interest.

This bill would require insurance companies to cover the cost of taking a bone marrow sample to find a match for a bone marrow transplant. This is an important way to try to save a cancer patient's life.

I am a cancer survivor, but I am now stage IV with bone mets. I currently undergo therapy treatments that will help me survive. I am however aware that this treatment may no longer become effective. I want to know that when this therapy stops working, that ALL other treatments that are available, including a bone marrow transplant can be adequately available to help save my life.

Any individual that decides to donate their bone marrow is a lifesaver, but so many are deterred when they are forced to pay for such a good procedure.

No one has the right to deny a cancer patient every chance to fight for their life that is possible. We only go this way ONCE.

Sincerely,

Joyce Grohe
Seymour, CT