



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony  
By  
Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90<sup>th</sup> District  
Cheshire – Wallingford  
on  
HB 5009: An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and  
Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage

February 11, 2010

Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

My testimony today is in support of HB 5009: An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage – especially Section I which deals with the insurance coverage for supplies after any ostomy operation has occurred.

In 1990, I was successful in finally getting coverage of \$1000 for ostomy supplies after one of my constituents who had an ostomy as a result of cancer was told that such supplies "were cosmetic."

Time has passed and as in all things, costs have greatly increased. This provision requests that the original \$1000 coverage has increased to \$5000.

It is interesting to note that this passed the house 3 years ago as an amendment overwhelmingly!

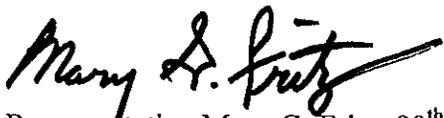
Last year – it passed as well as the "aircraft carrier" for all the other insurance mandates. Passed the Senate as well. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed it.

I was truly hoping that this 3<sup>rd</sup> year would be the charm. Unfortunately, it has again become the aircraft carrier and I believe its fate will be the same. Meanwhile, the roughly 8,000 people in Connecticut who have any of the ostomy conditions will be unfortunately reduced to minimum supplies, which is not healthy.

In conclusion, I thank you for raising the bill but I would be extremely grateful if you could let Section I be separated as a bill on its own, or even better insist that the coverage of ostomy supplies be made "medically necessary," which they truly are.

Thank you all for your help.

Sincerely,



Representative Mary G. Fritz, 90<sup>th</sup> District