

HB 5212

H.B. No. 5212 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE TREATMENT OF BLEEDING DISORDERS.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I speak before you this afternoon as not only a concerned citizen and taxpayer of the State of Connecticut, but also as a parent of a 2 year old toddler with severe hemophilia.

My son Andrew was diagnosed with severe hemophilia when he was only 5 days old. Given that there was not any family history of this disorder in our family, this diagnosis came as a complete surprise.

At 16 weeks, Andrew suffered a rare, spontaneous intracranial bleed that was promptly treated by the physicians and medical staff at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. After 14 long days, we were sent home to be trained by a home nursing staff on how to administer the factor that Andrew needed in order to fully recover. In fact, we have been infusing Andrew at home ever since. This has obviated the need to bring Andrew into the hospital to receive factor, and has saved thousands of dollars in medical costs.

I am happy to tell you that Andrew's development since the bleed has been right on track. He is healthy, happy and thriving.

As you know, the cost of health care is at the forefront of most legislators concerns at both the state and federal level. What is being proposed in H.B. No. 5212 should not increase the cost associated with caring for those in our State who are most at risk. Rather, this bill is simply codifying existing best practices by health insurers who do business in the State of Connecticut. If passed, this bill may help to contain costs as it will ensure that individuals with bleeding disorders continue to receive the specialized care that they need in order to live healthy, productive lives.

I ask you to vote in favor of H.B. No. 5212.

Thank you,

Elizabeth A. LaCombe, Esq.