

5295
Mary Elia

May 2, 2010

Statement before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

RE: HB 5295, An act Concerning Municipalities and Prescription Drug Plans

Chairmans Crisco and Fontana and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

I am Mary Elia, Field Organizer for the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans, an organization of more that 53,000 retirees residing in Connecticut, and a resident of West Haven, CT. I really don't need the full three minutes to express my, and our organization's, support for HB 5295, An Act Concerning Municipalities and Prescription Drug Plans.

The CT Alliance has long been an advocate of cost containment measures in health care while preserving the access to care, including prescription drugs, for senior citizens and all residents of Connecticut. To offer municipalities and local boards of education the ability to reduce costs by joining the state pool for at least prescription drug coverage, seems like a no-brainer. As our cities and towns struggle with financial difficulties, and Alliance members are taxpayers in those cities and towns, it would certainly make sense for the state to assist them in any way possible.

As you may remember, the CT Alliance supported the "Pooling Bill" of the last legislative session, as being important for the same reasons: bringing access to quality health care at a more affordable group price for a larger number of citizens and reducing the tax burden on municipalities and thus local taxpayers. My only wish would be that this bill opened more services to municipalities, but it certainly is a step in the right direction.

Therefore, I want to go on record supporting HB 5295 and urge you pass it out of committee and, with the support of SEBAC, work for it being passed and signed into law.

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