

February 8, 2011

**Statement
Of
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
On
HB 5439 An Act Concerning Notice of Changes In Prescription Drug Coverage**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna 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 on testifying on **HB 5439 An Act Concerning Notice of Changes In Prescription Drug Coverage.**

We are opposed to this legislation because it will have unintended consequences for the member and is unnecessary.

There are many unintended consequences of this legislation but perhaps the most important is that this legislation, if enacted, would prevent us from discontinuing a prescription drug from coverage under a members plan for six months even if the prescription drug has been found to be unsafe but not yet removed from the market by the Food and Drug Administration as that occurred with a cardiac drug some years back. Under this legislation we would be required to continue to offer a proven unsafe drug for up to six months or until it is removed from the market.

It also would require us to continue to cover a brand name prescription drug if a generic chemically equivalent becomes available and we want to move the more expensive but not more effective prescription drug to a higher co-pay, etc. These are important and critical tools that are necessary to help keep the healthcare costs down; which is of great concern to everyone involved in the healthcare delivery system including members, providers, employers and insurers.

We respectfully ask that the Committee reject this legislation and we would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.