

FTR

37 Midwell Rd.
Wethersfield, CT 06109

January 26, 2011

Representative Robert Megna
Senator Joseph J. Crisco
Insurance & Real Estate Commission
Room 2800, Legislative Office Bldg.
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Senate Bill 17, Act Concerning Wellness Programs and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage

Dear Chairmen:

We write to you with the hope that you will support the above bill. It is vital that Connecticut join other states in mandating insurance companies to cover the one-time \$60 fee for those joining the National Bone Marrow Registry.

Patients in need of stem cell transplants are totally dependent on the willingness of possible donors to take the first step in registering. To ask a donor to pay \$60, as the State of Connecticut requires, means that many people are not able to participate as a result of that expense. It places an extra burden on the donor, who is already willing to provide life-saving stem cells to someone in need.

Our daughter was the fortunate recipient of matching stem cells from an anonymous donor. We know first-hand the feeling of helplessness, knowing that there are so many good people willing to be tested as possible stem cell donors, but the cost deters them from doing so. Again, we urge you to support the above bill. *Your actions can save many lives.* Please take a moment to stop and think. **We hope you never face the prospect of waiting for a donor, as our daughter did.** By supporting this bill, you will give hope to thousands of patients and their families. You could not serve your constituents in a more meaningful way. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Manuel and Sylvia Meneses