



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MARY G. FRITZ
NINETIETH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4013
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-1169
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8571
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Mary.Fritz@cga.ct.gov

ASSISTANT DEPUTY SPEAKER

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony
By
Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th District
Cheshire-Wallingford
on
SB 17: An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and
Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage

February 3, 2011

Dear Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and honorable members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

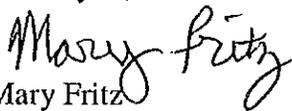
Regretfully, because of a prior commitment I am unable to appear before you today. However, I have attached my testimony from the prior sessions regarding the issue of raising the limit of coverage for ostomy supplies from \$1000 to \$5000. Hopefully four times will be the charm.

In 2000, I was successful in getting \$1000 coverage for ostomy supplies when a lovely constituent of mine was denied coverage after a bout with cancer. She was 30 years old and had been told "such supplies were cosmetic."

It is eleven years later and needless to say, prices have risen significantly and \$1000 doesn't cut it anymore.

Please support this legislation as you have done so graciously in the past.

Thank you,


Mary Fritz
Assistant Deputy Speaker



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Testimony
By
Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th 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!

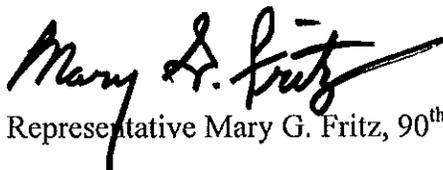
Last year – it passed as well as the "aircraft carrier" for all the other insurance mandates. Passed the Senate as well. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed it.

I was truly hoping that this 3rd 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary G. Fritz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Mary G. Fritz, 90th District



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Testimony
By
Rep. Mary G. Fritz, 90th District
Cheshire – Wallingford
on

HB 5021, An Act Concerning Expanding Health Insurance Coverage for Ostomy-Related Supplies

February 2, 2009

Chairman Crisco, Chairman Fontana, honorable members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee, I am submitting testimony in strong support of An Act Concerning Expanding Health Insurance Coverage for Ostomy-Related Supplies, HB 5021.

For the record I am Mary Fritz, the State Representative from the 90th District Covering parts of Cheshire and Wallingford.

As you know, this bill was presented to you last year and you very graciously voted it out of the committee. This bill also passed the house by a weak margin. Unfortunately, in the waning days of the session it did not get called in Senate. So here I am again – hoping this time for passage by both chambers and the Governor's signature.

I would now like to beg your indulgence and give you a brief history of this bill on ostomy supplies and my involvement.

In 1999, a 30 year old constituent of mine came to me for help. Because of cancer, part of her intestine had to be removed and she was forced to have a colostomy. When she approached her employer about coverage for the supplies, the insurance company responded that these supplies "WERE COSMETIC" and would not be covered.

That year it did not make it to the floor of the House. But we came back again in 2000 and we were successful. Connecticut became the 1st state in the country to mandate coverage for ostomy supplies up to \$1000.

Eight years later, 2008, I came to you again and asked for your help because the cost of supplies annually far exceeded the \$1000 limit. Please remember without these supplies ostomy patients cannot and would not have a normal life -- needless to say absolutely no quality of life.

The compromise reached last year was a \$5000 annual limit.

Let's make history again in 2009 and have this proposal become law. Senator Crisco I'm counting on you!

Thank you