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February 24, 2011

Statement  
Of  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
On  
**SB 974** An Act Concerning Group Health Insurance Coverage For An Alternative  
Therapy In the Treatment Of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Good afternoon, Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Christine Cappiello and I am the Director of Government Relations for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut and I am here to testify on **SB 974 An Act Concerning Group Health Insurance Coverage For An Alternative Therapy In the Treatment Of Autism Spectrum Disorders.**

We understand the intent of this legislation as the therapies for assisting those with autism varies and growing as the medical community develops new therapies. We appreciate the opportunity for our members to seek a less expensive but clinical equivalent treatment if the treating physician believes it will help, it meets a national recognized organizations criteria and it meets medical necessity criteria.

We would like to point out an important observation for the committee to consider. One of the significant challenges that Anthem has encountered on the underlying mandate requiring coverage for ABA therapy for individuals with autism is that while the treatment has to be under the supervision of a physician, there still is no licensure requirement for the individuals who are actually carrying out the ABA therapy. We respectfully request that the committee amend this bill and the underlying ABA mandate to require therapists providing these treatments or any other future treatments to individual indentified with autism be licensed by the Department of Public Health as all other medical professionals are required to under Connecticut law.

Thank you for your time and I am here to answer any questions that the Committee might have.