



Eric D. Fischer

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Re: Written testimony of Eric D. Fischer in Support of HB6481

To: Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee

I am submitting the following testimony in support of HB6481, An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Lupus Education and Awareness Plan.

Thank you for reading my testimony. In addition to working at UnitedHealthcare National Accounts, I am also Vice Chair of the Lupus Foundation of America, Connecticut Chapter. I want to thank you for introducing this bill, in that it is so critical to so many people in three key areas:

- Building lupus awareness, both as a debilitating disease and in an effort to help the provider community properly diagnoses and treat the disease. In addition, because the disease disproportionately strikes minorities and women, increased awareness will help a significant portion of Connecticut's population.
- Investing in research to find a true cure. While the FDA is currently evaluating Benlysta, there hasn't been a new drug for this disease since Eisenhower was president.
- Providing support for those afflicted with this disease in part through monthly seminars and group meetings.

Again, thank you for your consideration, and thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Fischer
Senior Director, UnitedHealthcare National Accounts

