



***COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE***  
***March 20, 2013***

***SB 1068 An Act Concerning Care Coordination for Chronic Disease***

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Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health committee, Boehringer Ingelheim is pleased to submit these comments in support of **Raised Senate Bill 1068, An Act Concerning Care Coordination for Chronic Disease.**

Boehringer Ingelheim is a family owned company committed to the discovery; development, manufacture and marketing of innovative health care products that have helped bring more health to patients and address unmet therapeutic needs. We recognize that chronic conditions are a significant issue facing states, and we are committed to continuing to make advances in chronic disease areas that are of critical importance to patients and their families.

There is considerable evidence about how to prevent, postpone and treat these chronic conditions. Implementing evidenced-based prevention strategies can reduce health care costs borne by states for its employees, state retirees and its low-income and disabled populations enrolled in Medicaid. One estimate is that 83 cents of every Medicaid dollar is spent on preventable and highly manageable chronic diseases, including diabetes, asthma and hypertension.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Center for Disease Control, seven in ten deaths in the United States are caused by chronic diseases, a total of 1.7 million deaths each year.<sup>2</sup> These conditions include heart disease, cancer, stroke, respiratory diseases and diabetes, and mental health disorders which are estimated to contribute more than \$1 trillion in spending across the U.S. each year.<sup>3</sup>

Attached is a 2012 resolution from the Council of State Governments (CSG) which recommends that states become more aware of strategies that address Chronic Care Coordination.

Senate Bill 1068 establishes a working group to develop a plan to reduce incidences of chronic disease and improve chronic care coordination. The bill further requires this group to report to this committee and the Governor about the impact of the chronic diseases that are most likely to cause death or disability, the approximate number of people in the state affected by these chronic diseases and an inventory of programs in the state that have been implemented to improve chronic care coordination. The goal of this bill is to reduce the incidence of chronic disease in this state and to coordinate care for patients with multiple chronic conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> Partnership To Fight Chronic Disease. (2011) "Medicaid in a New Era: Proven Solutions to Enhance Quality and Reduce Costs." <http://www.fightchronicdisease.org/events/medicaid-new-era-proven-solutions-enhance-quality-and-reduce-costs>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/index.htm>, accessed March 6, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> DeVol, Ross, et al. "An Unhealthy America: The economic burden of chronic disease." The Milken Institute. October 2007.

While we recognize and applaud the work that the State Department of Public Health has done over the years by identifying and establishing plans for many of the chronic diseases. We believe there is still a need to look at the diseases together and come up with recommendations on how best to treat them all in a coordinated fashion, with the limited resources that are available. Additionally, much of what is contemplated in this bill was originally included in Public Act 09-148; however, that Act was subsequently repealed and many of the recommendations relating to effectively managing chronic conditions were never implemented.

The passage of this bill will help provide a comprehensive and consolidated strategy to identifying best practices for addressing chronic care coordination in an effort to take steps to reduce the burden of multiple chronic conditions on the state and its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. If you have any questions please contact Joseph Oros, Regional Director, National Government Affairs, Boehringer Ingelheim at 860-781-2126.

## THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

### RESOLUTION ON CHRONIC CARE COORDINATION

**WHEREAS**, chronic disease is recognized as the leading cause of disability and death in the United States; and accounts for 1.7 million deaths or 70% of all deaths in the U.S. each year; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic diseases – such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, respiratory diseases and diabetes – are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health problems; and

**WHEREAS**, implementing prevention programs around multiple chronic conditions can help states reduce the overall financial burden of chronic illness within public programs such as Medicaid and Medicare, as well as state employees' health insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, the inefficient coordination of care for people with chronic conditions has led not only to higher costs, but poorer health outcomes for the most vulnerable populations within states. For example, 8 out of 10 of the top 1 percent of Medicaid utilizers have at least three chronic conditions and 6 out of 10 have five or more chronic conditions. The issue is even more prevalent in the dual eligible population which accounts for 38 percent of Medicaid spending overall and have an average of 4.2 conditions, 5 physicians and 5.6 prescribers; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing and treating chronic disease is an important public health initiative that will improve the quality of life for state residents affected by these conditions and will reduce Medicaid costs to the states;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Council of State Governments encourages states to consider the feasibility of implementing an assessment and review of all chronic disease management programs in states by:

- Considering the creation of a Chronic Disease Legislative Caucus to identify best practices in chronic care coordination and to make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, Department of Health and other relevant state agencies in an effort to take steps to reduce the burden of multiple chronic conditions on the state and its residents.
- Considering the development of a state plan to meet the health care needs of residents with multiple chronic conditions.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of December, 2012, at CSG's 2012 National Conference in Austin, Texas.