



Testimony on Behalf of the New England Biotechnology Association (NEBA)

In Support of SB1068, An Act Concerning Care Coordination for Chronic Disease

March 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee:

The New England Biotech Association (NEBA) advocates on behalf of biomedical research and counts among our members many leading New England biotechnology companies and biomedical research institutions. Our overarching goal is to grow the biotech sector, create well paying and meaningful jobs and speed the progress towards new medical treatments and cures. We are also concerned about improving patients' lives and advancing the delivery of healthcare.

NEBA respectfully submits the following comments in support of Senate Bill 1068, An Act Concerning Care Coordination for Chronic Disease (the "Legislation"). We recognize that treating chronic diseases is an increasingly important issue facing states. Our members are committed to advancing treatment for chronic diseases that are of critical importance to patients and their families.

There is considerable evidence demonstrating the importance of preventing, postponing and treating chronic conditions more effectively. The Center for Disease Control estimates that seventy percent of deaths in the United States each year are caused by chronic diseasesⁱ. Senate Bill 1068 would create a working group to develop a coordinated plan to reduce the incidence of chronic disease and improve coordination of care for patients with chronic disease in Connecticut. The bill further requires this group to report to the Public Health 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.

States can reduce health care costs for state employees, retirees and populations enrolled in programs such as Medicaid by implementing evidenced-based prevention strategies. State costs for managing chronic diseases can be very significant. The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease estimates that 83 cents of every Medicaid dollar is spent on preventable and highly manageable chronic diseases, such as diabetes, asthma and hypertensionⁱⁱ. A recent Milken Institute report estimates that overall U.S. spending on chronic conditions including respiratory

diseases, diabetes, cancer, mental health disorders, heart disease, stroke, respiratory diseases and diabetes to be more than \$1 trillion annuallyⁱⁱⁱ. We believe the passage of this bill will help provide a comprehensive and consolidated strategy to address chronic care coordination. This is an important first step toward reducing the human and financial cost of multiple chronic conditions on the state and its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this matter.

Paul R. Pescatello, JD, PhD
Chair, New England Biotech Association

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

ii. 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>

iii. DeVol, Ross, et al. "An Unhealthy America: The economic burden of chronic disease." The Milken Institute. October 2007.