

FTR

SB 200

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March 4, 2014

The American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED) strongly supports legislation to mandate consistent coverage and reimbursement for Medical Foods when prescribed by a physician for specific chronic medical conditions in children and adults. We support the American Academy of Pediatrics policy statement on 'Reimbursement for Foods for Special Dietary Use.' "Medical Food" means a food formulated to be consumed or administered enterally under the supervision of a physician and which is intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements, based on recognized scientific principles, are established by medical evaluation.

As a patient advocacy group supporting those living with eosinophil associated gastrointestinal disease such as eosinophilic esophagitis, gastritis, gastroenteritis and colitis (collectively known as "EGIDs") we recognize the importance of specialized formulas in the treatment of a wide range of medical conditions. EGIDs affect approximately 52 per 100,000 individuals in the United States. For certain individuals with EGIDs, specialized elemental formulas are the primary or sole treatment for the disorder. For many, such as those with eosinophilic esophagitis, proper nutritional therapy has been established as being critical to a good outcome, and may be more important than prescription medications. Medical Foods are a medical therapy and therefore should be covered as would any other medication, procedure or device. Health insurance policy that is delivered, issued for delivery, renewed, extended or modified in a particular state by any health care insurer and that provides coverage for a child or adult should optimally recognize Medical Foods as an accepted medical benefit and provide coverage when prescribed by a physician as a dietary treatment.

On behalf of patients living with EGIDs, APFED unequivocally support CT SB 200 , as it provides essential coverage for specialized formula as recommended by physicians as a treatment of chronic medical conditions.

Sincerely,



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President
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