

Khurram Rana
Westbrook, CT
Mar 6, 2014
Bill SB200

Testimony in Support of SB 200

***S.B. No. 200 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SPECIALIZED FORMULA.**

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 6, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of Senate Bill 200 to extend the age limit for coverage for specialized formula. The bill should also be expanded to include coverage of specialized formula for children with Eosinophilic Gastro-Intestinal Disease (EGID) which is a growing disease.

I am Khurram Rana and a dad of a child with EGID. I support this bill to increase the age limit and ask that you support this bill also. I am here today to support our son in getting necessary coverage for his feeding disorder, to increase your understanding of why it is important that specialized formula be covered beyond the age of 12 years for these types of disorders, and to expand coverage to include EGID. I hope to increase your awareness of this growing disease and important health issue for many families with children who need specialized formula.

Our son is also here today. His primary source of daily nutrition is the specialized formula or medical food he requires because of his GI disorder. Without this formula, our son would suffer from malnutrition or might not even be alive to have provided his testimony today. It is in the end a medical necessity for him to grow because he does not eat enough real food to be able to survive.

Our son's condition involves an allergic response to certain types of foods. He is allergic to peanuts and other nuts, egg, dairy and soy. This limits his ability to eat food and he has a learned fear of food because of it. He struggles to eat every day. Therefore, almost all of his daily nutrition comes from the specialized formula. This is not supplemental to what he eats everyday but rather a daily necessity. It was a struggle and a long path to finally get insurance to approve and provide the specialized formula for his condition. Without the coverage, it would be very costly to pay for the formula he requires to live each day. This is what our family and families like ours would have to face without the coverage.

Our son is a great little 8 year old who has learned to have fun in life and has made many friends. He has put up with a lot in his 8 years of life. He has been able to grow because of his specialized formula and while he looks like other children who eat, he is not. While he has made improvements in trying to eat, the fact is he eats small amounts of food everyday which is not anywhere near enough to meeting the daily requirements for calories. He, therefore, relies on his specialized formula to live every day. He is not like other children since it is unlikely he could survive without receiving the specialized formula.

You will also hear from the insurance companies today and their representative will probably tell you that they do not support this bill for financial and business reasons. Insurance companies do not have to live the daily challenges and constant struggles of getting children to eat enough to meet the daily requirements to survive. Our family does live through these struggles daily as do other families with children who have feeding disorders. We need to have specialized formula covered without fear that

Khurram Rana
Westbrook, CT
Mar 6, 2014
Bill SB200

one day it will no longer be covered. This would be similar to a diabetic child who would no longer have insulin covered for their disease.

In closing, I ask that you support this bill to increase the age limit to provide specialized formula and consider expansion to growing diseases like EGID. If we can prevent 1 other child or family from going through what we have in getting and keeping coverage for specialized formula, then we have been successful.

Thank you.

Khurram Rana
532 Pond Meadow Rd
Westbrook, CT 06498
860-399-3450
k.rana@comcast.net