



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 6, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

To the Co-Chairs and Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5251, An Act Limiting Out-of-Pocket Expenses for Prescription Drugs.

Like many of you, I have constituents who are having difficulty paying for numerous but vitally needed drugs prescribed by their doctors to combat serious health issues, such as leukemia and lymphoma. I am grateful that this committee has raised House Bill 5251, which I believe will establish a much-needed safety net for those chronically ill patients.

Opponents of this bill may claim it is a mandate. However, there will be testimony from others offering data that will demonstrate that the fiscal impact of this bill will not be significant. This bill is really about patient protection and welfare. By placing a reasonable monthly and annual cap on prescription drug out-of-pocket expenses, it will help a small but extremely vulnerable segment of our population to afford the drugs their doctors deem necessary for them to regain and maintain good health.

Vermont and Maine have passed laws similar to House Bill 5251, and other New England States are actively considering this kind of legislation for their residents. I believe the time is right for Connecticut to join those states that put a premium on patient welfare.

I urge this committee to favorably report this bill which will ensure that health care in Connecticut is not only accessible, but affordable for chronically ill patients.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Orange". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Orange
Deputy Speaker of the House