

FTR

It is my understanding that Bill No. 418 regarding health insurers denying medication on the basis that the treatment is "not medically necessary" or that the medication is considered "off-label" is coming up for a vote soon. I have been affected greatly by the lack of such legislation. I am being treated for Multiple Sclerosis by a specialist in the treatment of Multiple Sclerosis. In the last two years the disease has progressed and I am barely able to walk. The quality of my life has definitely deteriorated. I have been receiving monthly Intravenous treatments of steroids and chemotherapy for that long. My doctor, who sees me on a regular basis, has also treated me with every possible medication for this disease with the hopes of slowing the progression. We have now reached the crossroad where he feels that a particular medication could be helpful. Patients with Multiple Sclerosis are and have been using it and there is substantial evidence that it has been effective yet the insurance company continues to deny me.

It is my feeling that only my doctor truly knows what the course of my treatment should be. It has been very depressing and I have developed such anxiety knowing that there is something available to me and someone who has never seen me struggle has the right to decide what is "medically necessary" or decide what "medication" could make a difference in the course of the disease. I strongly urge you to vote on my behalf to pass "SB418".

Sincerely,
Claire R. Nemcik
Torrington, CT