

Thank you for taking some of your time to focus on H.B. No. 5266 -AN ACT CONCERNING
MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION SERVICES

As a Diabetes Educator in the state of CT, I work with people impacted by diabetes on a daily basis. Many of these people are on Medicaid and are prescribed multiple daily medications for their diabetes and co-morbidities. These medications are paid for by Medicaid, however, I frequently see patients using their medications incorrectly, or not taking their medications on a regular basis. This results in poor health outcomes and increased healthcare costs related to complications and increased utilization of healthcare services. More often than not, these problems arise from a lack of patient education.

While I applaud Medicaid for paying for these medications, we are not seeing the full benefit of these medications. There is a significant waste of resources that can be addressed through patient education in the form of DSME.

Please consider paying for DSME so that our neediest citizens can enjoy the benefits of the medications that we are already paying for.

Respectfully,

Sharon Werner RD CDE

Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator