

Dear Human Services Committee,

I am writing to encourage your support and to thank you for putting on your agenda for discussion:
*H.B. No. 5440 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SERVICES

I am a nurse practitioner specializing in endocrinology. Main focus of clinical practice is treating patients with diabetes. In my practice we have exceptional certified diabetes educators who educate my patients about the chronic disease of diabetes and how to live with diabetes on a daily basis. Unfortunately due to the patient volume in our clinical practice; I do not adequate time allotted in a visit to teach my patients how to administer their insulin injections, instruct them on the numerous blood glucose meters, meal planning, carbohydrate counting and the many other self-management skills that are required for optimizing blood glucose control. The registered dietitians and registered nurses who are certified diabetes educators have this training and the motivational skills to educate my patients. They work with the patient to establish goals and make lifestyle management changes gradually based on each individual patient's needs.

The education that my patients receive through attending our diabetes education workshops keeps the patient safe and many times free unnecessary emergency room visits. We know these ER visits are costly and unnecessary. Patients should have access to the training and education to prevent or lessen emergency situations from happening. I could provide many instances of patients verbalizing their appreciation for the time that was spent with them with their diabetes educators. They feel confident in managing their blood sugars and know that they have support in assisting them with preventing or delaying complications from diabetes.

In the state of Connecticut, all other insurance payers including Medicare are required to and have coverage for diabetes self-management education services. The state of Connecticut should give this same privilege to our Medicaid population. I am asking for your support and action for this bill. I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Heather Myrick APRN, ANP-BC

55 Pebble Drive

Southington, CT 06489