

Wrice, Monique

From: Kantorovich, Vitaly <kantorovich@uchc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2016 10:07 AM
To: HSTestimony
Subject: H.B. No. 5440

Dear Human Services Committee,

I am writing to 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 an endocrinologist who is fortunate to work with exceptional certified diabetes educators who educate my patients about the chronic disease of diabetes and how to live with diabetes on a daily basis. As a busy endocrinologist I do not have the time to teach my patients how to give themselves their insulin injections, instruct them on the numerous blood glucose meters, meal planning and carbohydrate counting and the many other self-management skills that are required for optimizing blood sugars. The registered dietitians and registered nurses who were 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 from unnecessary emergency room visits. We know these ER visits are costly and unnecessary if the patient has the training and education about diabetes 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. It is unclear to me why the state of Connecticut does not 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.

Vitaly Kantorovich, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism
Department of Medicine
University of CT Health Center
263 Farmington Avenue, MC 1850
Farmington, CT 06030-1850
(860) 679-8980 Phone
(860) 679-2129 Office
(860) 679-1258 Fax
KANTOROVICH@uchc.edu