



EXPRESS SCRIPTS®

OPPOSE House Bill 5517

Committee on INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE

March 10 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 5517, an act concerning out of pocket expenses for prescription drugs. Express Scripts respectfully opposes the bill.

Express Scripts is a pharmacy benefit manager, or “PBM,” and it is our goal to make prescription drugs safer and more affordable. We believe HB 5517 would restrict our ability to implement important plan management programs – tools that plan sponsors use to help keep costs down – and ultimately drive up the cost of pharmacy care for the state and its employers.

Patient cost-sharing is an essential tool to keeping the majority of medicines affordable, not just one individual drug. By preventing plans from charging patients more than \$100 for a 30-day supply of any single drug, HB 5517 would have the inverse effect of actually *increasing* healthcare costs by forcing increased insurance premium costs for *all* Connecticut residents who will have to shoulder the additional burden. PBMs help their clients promote cost-savings through formulary management and utilization tools, such as prior authorization and step therapy.

We fear that HB 5517 will only continue the endless cycle of escalating prescription drug prices. A significant and costly by-product of imposing price controls on consumers’ out-of-pocket spending will be an increase in already unreasonable drug prices set by drug manufacturers. The skyrocketing cost of specialty drugs are representative of the unchecked, upward growth of drug prices that will result from legislation such as HB 5517. By capping patient out-of-pocket expenses, doctors and patients will inevitably choose more expensive brand drugs over lower cost generics, continuing to feed the cycle of price increases.

HB 5517 would also prohibit all drugs in a class from being placed on a specific cost tier, even if there is only one drug in a class and regardless of its price. This will effectively increase profits for brand manufacturers, encourage the manufacturers to continue to constantly escalate prices for these drugs, and, in turn, increase the cost of prescription drugs and health coverage in general for anyone who has health insurance.

While employers, state government plans, and other payers are looking for cutting-edge ways to minimize health care costs, this legislation will only increase costs for patients and payers alike while benefiting brand manufacturers.

It is for these reasons we respectfully oppose HB 5517. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 269-6401 or heather_cascone@express-scripts.com.

Respectfully submitted,

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