



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Sen. Martin Testimony In Support of S.B. 160 Insurance and Real Estate Committee March 1st, 2016

Sen. Crisco, Rep. Megna, Ranking Members Kelly and Sampson, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am Sen. Henri Martin, and I am testifying in favor of Proposed S.B. No. 160 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INSURED'S ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURERS FOR THE PROCESSING OF CERTAIN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS.

Just after the holiday season, I was contacted by Ms. Jane Presnick-Lyon, a resident of Cheshire, about a matter that I believe deserves our utmost attention and action.

Ms. Lyon shared with me a story about a little boy named William and it is in his memory that I am here today. William was born on December 23rd to his parents, one of two twins delivered 13 weeks early by C-Section. William was born very ill. As a result of his illness, both babies were transferred to a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to receive treatment. After the transfer occurred, William's mother tried to contact her insurance provider, Cigna, to obtain an insurance authorization for transfer to be with her babies. Unfortunately, she was unable to obtain a transfer because her insurance provider does not maintain a twenty-four-hour authorization phone number. When William took a turn for the worse, and subsequently passed away, his mother was not able to be with him.

The fact that William's mother, who had given birth approximately thirty hours prior to William's passing, was unable to hold her newborn during his short life is profoundly sad. It is an ill that we as legislators have a profound responsibility to fix – this legislation lets us honor William's memory by requiring health insurers that require prior authorization for the inter-hospital transfer of a newborn infant or such newborn infant's mother to establish and maintain a manned, twenty-four-hour telephone number for the issuance of decisions regarding such prior authorization requests.

Rarely in this building are there pieces of legislation that are this impactful, rooted in this much common-sense and are this agreeable. I urge the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to move this piece of legislation forward so this type of tragedy doesn't happen again.

Please support S.B. 160. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Senator Henri Martin
31st District