

**Testimony Presented to the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly**

Thursday, March 15, 2016

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**S.B. No. 435
An Act Concerning Health Carriers' Use of Clinical Pathways & Health Insurance
Coverage for Services Rendered by a Chiropractor**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Hartley, Representative Zoni, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson, members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

I'm Paul Pescatello, President/CEO of the New England Biotechnology Association.

New England Biotechnology Association advocates on behalf of biomedical research and counts among our members some of New England's leading biotechnology companies and biomedical research institutions. Our overarching goals are to grow the biotech sector, create well paying and meaningful jobs and, of course, support well-funded basic translational and industry research that, coupled with robust clinical and product development, leads to new medicines on pharmacy shelves, new medical device options for patients, and higher quality foods for consumers.

I am here today in support of S.B. 435. In an effort to more tightly manage costs, clinical pathway programs are increasingly being adopted as a means to steer healthcare providers and patients to specific treatment options. Clinical pathways are structured plans detailing essential steps in patient care with the goal of improving patient outcomes and clinical efficiency.

Many clinical pathways are developed at the local or institutional level by those who are expected to implement them, an approach that takes into account variations in the way medicine is practiced within local communities and ensures the unique needs of individual patients are met. In some cases there is concern, however, that clinical pathways are internally developed and do not fully accept the clinical pathways recognized within the relevant and broader medical community.

As clinical pathways become more prevalent it will be essential to ensure standards are established to include appropriate clinical evidence and processes for the use of internally-developed clinical pathways. This assurance of appropriate standards – appropriate for patients and their healthcare providers is what S.B. 435 is all about. It would help ensure that any clinical pathways program that is used for health benefits offerings must come from those developed and published from within the relevant/appropriate medical community. It also provides for patients to have access to important information regarding the rationale and factors that influence treatment decisions – including summary data and background relevant to a given clinical pathway. Disclosure regarding clinical pathways will ensure patients are able to make informed decisions with knowledge of the factors that contributed to the selection of a treatment plan.

New England Biotechnology Association, first and foremost, advocates for the right of the patient to make informed decisions. S.B. 435 would further that important outcome and should be supported.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or expand upon any points made in my testimony.