

*Written Testimony for the Public Health Committee  
February 24, 2016*

The Department of Social Services (DSS) offers the following written testimony on bills presented for a public hearing in the Public Health Committee.

**H.B. No. 5266 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SERVICES**

This legislation would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to submit an application for a Medicaid waiver (under the 1115 demonstration waivers of the Social Security Act) for the purpose of providing diabetes prevention services to adults and children in households with income that does not exceed three hundred per cent of the federal poverty level. This bill also requires DSS to amend the Medicaid state plan for the purpose of providing diabetes self-management education services to adults and children.

Currently, diabetes self-management services are available to Connecticut Medicaid enrollees through the following providers:

- Federally qualified health centers as an encounter visit
- Outpatient hospitals as part of a medical clinic visit
- Physician office setting as part of an evaluation and management visit.

Additionally, the Department's medical administrative services organization, Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT), offers an extensive and broad array of services for Medicaid beneficiaries with diabetes.

These services include:

- Intensive Care Management of beneficiaries identified as high risk with diabetes, having gaps in care, having emergency department visits or inpatient stays related to diabetes.
- Direct contact with beneficiaries by registered dietitians, community health workers and non-clinical outreach staff to address diabetic needs and ongoing coaching support.
- Assistance from registered dietitians with case review, staff education and providing beneficiaries with guidance in choosing healthy nutritional options.
- Wellness calls and automated wellness reminders to ensure that beneficiaries with diabetes are getting the care they need to keep them healthy.

In this difficult economic climate, the Department is unable to support expanding diabetes prevention services to the levels proposed in this legislation. The Department would also find it very difficult to stretch staff resources to provide additional education services. In this new economic reality, the Department must stay committed to focusing on core services.

For these reasons, the Department is unable to support this bill.



**S.B. No. 85 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A STUDY ON COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

This bill would appropriate \$26,000 to the Department of Public Health (DPH) in this fiscal year to study and report out on the effectiveness of providing community-based health services in Connecticut as required by section 359 of Public Act 15-5, June special session.

With the passage of Public Act 15-5, June special session, DSS, in conjunction with DPH, is already studying the effectiveness of providing community-based health care services in the state. As this work is actively moving forward without appropriations, the Department believes, at this time, that funds are not necessary to complete the study outlined in the existing legislation. DPH and DSS have been reviewing and working on guidelines related to community-based health care services since July of 2015. Specifically, the Department has been studying how to further improve support for high need, high cost individuals served by Medicaid through a variety of means, including building on our present Intensive Care Management strategies.

Given the state's limited resources, the bill is not supported.