

I am writing in support of H.B. No. 5266 (Raised) An ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SERVICES. As a Certified Diabetes Educator for the past 30 years, I know the benefit of educating individuals with diabetes. The complications of uncontrolled or poorly controlled diabetes is expensive to the insurance provider, the community, not to mention the patient.

Diabetes is largely a self-managed condition requiring an ongoing engaged role from the patient to stay healthy. The patient needs to understand the medical management of their disease, how medications work, the benefits of exercise, how to monitor and interpret their blood sugars, and how to identify and promptly seek medical assistance for potential complications. It is unrealistic to think that complete education can be done within the scope of a provider's office visit.

As a taxpayer in the State of Connecticut, it is concerning to me that Medicaid will pay for the treatment of diabetes complications which are extremely costly, but not assist patients to get the education that they need to self-manage their diabetes.

Medicaid will pay for the treatment of diabetes complications but not the education to prevent those complications

Medicare and private payers coverage of DSME and most other states have Medicaid coverage of DSME – it's recognized as a care standard in diabetes care.

I hope that you will consider this very important bill, and realize that it will save in the long run.

Sincerely,

Jill Ely, FNP-BC, CDE

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