

Thank you for taking some of your time to focus on H.B. No. 5266 -AN ACT CONCERNING
MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT
EDUCATION SERVICES

As a Diabetes Educator in the state of CT, I too often see how patients who are most vulnerable develop costly complications and the struggle that they are faced when attempting to access services such as Diabetes self-management education. CT DPH data indicates that highest rate of diabetes is found among those with annual household incomes of < \$25,000 where the rate is 14.1% or approximately 75,000 people in this state. Rates of diabetes and diabetes complications are higher among people in lower socio-economic groups such as those covered by Medicaid. These are the citizens that need self-management skills the most and are the only citizens in the state of CT that are not covered for diabetes education. Diabetes self-management education is a service that focuses on providing people with diabetes with the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform diabetes self-care tasks. Medicare covers diabetes education and there is a state mandate that Connecticut based insurance cover diabetes education. So, essentially the only residents that do not have coverage for diabetes education are our citizens on Medicaid who the data suggest are at greatest risk of costly complications. In Connecticut, 1.3% of all hospital charges (\$170 million) were for hospitalizations with diabetes as the primary diagnosis in 2012. Diabetes self-management education and self-care skills could reduce the hospitalizations and complications and ultimately cost.

Respectfully,

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(http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/hems/chronic_dis/diabetes/burden_diabetes_connecticut_apr2015_web_final.pdf).