

I am writing in support of HB 5266 which would provide Diabetes Prevention services to Medicaid recipients. It is well established that “an ounce of prevention can produce a pound of cure.” Nowhere in medicine is this more obvious than in the prevention of Type II Diabetes in our population. Clearly, monies spent in preventing this complicated and EXTREMELY COSTLY disease would be well spent and save millions of dollars in the future. The YMCAs of Connecticut have an outstanding Diabetes Prevention Program as do many other organizations. Their results have been dramatic. But Medicaid clients are prevented from taking advantage of such services because of “initial” cost at present. An initial relatively small investment in such prevention has the potential of saving thousands of dollars per patient in the future. I suggest to the committee and to the Legislature (and there is extensive medical literature to support this) that there is no greater investment in preventative health than in preventing Diabetes within our less fortunate population. Thank you for your consideration.

*Raymond E. Sullivan, M.D.*