



State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATOR TONY HWANG
TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: (800) 842-1421
E-MAIL: Tony.Hwang@cga.ct.gov
WEBSITE: www.SenatorHwang.com

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

RANKING MEMBER
HOUSING COMMITTEE
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

I am Sen. Tony Hwang of the 28th Senate District.

I also have Type 2 Diabetes.

I am testifying today in strong support of H.B. No. 5266 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR DIABETES PREVENTION AND SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION SERVICES.

As a state lawmaker, I want to do all I can to raise awareness about prevention measures that can be taken to combat and mitigate the negative impacts of this ever-growing disease.

- Asian Americans are at increased risk for diabetes.
- Diabetes is one of the most serious health problems that the African American community faces today.
- The American Diabetes Association estimates that the total national cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States is \$245 billion - an astounding figure.

I want to thank the Connecticut Alliance of YMCA's for their advocacy on this crucial issue. It makes sense to focus on this huge cost driver.

We can win the long-term battle through education. We can win by shining a bright light on prevention steps, and we can win by passing policies which allow people to better protect themselves.

The bill before you would require Medicaid to cover diabetes self-management education.

That education represents a cost effective measure to reduce the long-term complications associated with diabetes.

Ben Franklin once famously said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." H.B. 5266 provides a much needed "ounce of prevention" which could save millions and millions of dollars over the long-term.

This legislation represents a positive step toward putting Connecticut back on a sustainable, predictable path. I know it has bipartisan support, and as someone who does battle with diabetes on a daily basis, I strongly urge its passage.