



*Written Testimony of the Department of Social Services
Submitted to the Public Health Committee
February 17, 2017*

H.B. No. 6237 (PROPOSED) AN ACT ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIABETES ADVISORY COUNCIL

This legislation would require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to secure Medicaid coverage for diabetes self-management education at programs accredited by the American Diabetes Association or the American Association of Diabetes Educators. It is not explicitly assigned to DSS, but this bill also tasks a state agency to build the capacity for a state-wide diabetes self-management education program with an emphasis on culturally and linguistically appropriate standards and improved access.

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.

As the Department is already providing diabetes self-management services, DSS is unable to support further expansion of such services in this difficult economic climate. Also, the Department does not have the necessary resources to build a state-wide diabetes self-management education program. For these reasons, the Department opposes this bill.