

Testimony in support of HB6237: AN ACT ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DIABETES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

My name is Jill Ely. I am Family Nurse Practitioner, a Registered Nurse and a Certified Diabetes Educator since 1986. I current work as both a Diabetes Educator and a provider in an Endocrine practice in Stamford, Connecticut. In addition, I am a member of the Legislative committee of The Connecticut Alliance of Diabetes Educators. I am providing evidence of the benefits of diabetes education for residents of Connecticut and most importantly for those individuals who have Medicaid insurance in Connecticut. I am advocating for Medicaid to cover Diabetes Self-Management Education/Training.

It is well known by Endocrinologists, Primary Care physicians and Certified Diabetes Educators that accredited Diabetes Education Programs can significantly improve glycemic control for patients. This is documented in the professional literature. Accredited Diabetes Education programs provide the framework for patients to be able to self- manage their diabetes and make appropriate choices around medications, exercise, nutrition and risk reduction for complications of this disease. Individuals with Medicaid do not have those opportunities.

Individuals who have Medicaid obtain their knowledge comes from brief visits with their physicians, visits with a nurse who may or may not have the expertise in diabetes, Emergency room visits to put a “band-aid” on their poorly controlled blood sugars, or even worse when they suffer the complications of diabetes, such as an amputation or dialysis. Diabetes Education provides information to patients to help them identify medical issues related to complications. They can work with their health care provider to identify these problems and address them before they result in an amputation or renal failure.

Diabetes is a costly disease and proper education from an accredited diabetes education program with Certified Diabetes Educators can and will make a difference not only to the quality of a patient’s life but the financial impact to the State of Connecticut.

Thank you,

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