

Insurance and real estate committee

Good afternoon members of the committee, my name is DIANET NIEVES SEGUI and I am a grad student at the UConn School of Social work and I am interning at The Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans. One priority of the Alliance is to assess the healthcare needs of retirees, tell their stories and work toward more affordable Medical care. HB 5384 "An act concerning prescription drug cost is a start toward addressing the high cost of prescription drugs and a move to make these costs more transparent. On a personal note this bill will help me understand and explain to my father why all his medication has gone up in prices, recently he became ill with the flu and because of it had other complications his Doctor prescribed a new medication. When my father went to pick up this new medication his insurance did not cover it and there was no generic option for him. He had to pay out of pocket for this medication. My father is on disability and has other medical conditions. Spending money on his limited income is a hardship on him and his adult children. The people in the state of Connecticut need better access to affordable medicine. People like my father and countless others that need their medication to live. The one thing we would like to see that this bill does not cover is language that empowers the Attorney General to take action against price gouging by pharmaceutical corporations. And I hope this is something the committee will consider, Thank you.