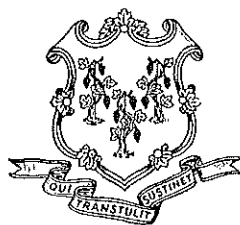


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March 5, 2018

Good morning Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, and Representative Steinberg I would like to express my support for SB 303, AN ACT CONCERNING URGENT CARE CENTERS, HB 5295, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES, HB 5215, and AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING REVISIONS TO THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS STATUTES, HB 5296, AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY TO IDENTIFY WAYS FOR STATE GOVERNMENT TO PARTNER WITH HOSPITALS, SB 219, AN ACT CONCERNING INDOOR TANNING, HB 5161, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SEAT BELTS,

SB 303 addresses a problem that many of our constituents have faced and that one version of SB 445 last year would have begun to address (but that language was not in the final version). Some hospitals operate satellite emergency departments that are off site from the main campus of the hospital. Unfortunately, some of the satellite emergency departments (which bill at the higher emergency department rates) have

signage that does not sufficiently differentiate them from independent urgent care centers or even other hospital owned entities.

In fact, it is nearly impossible to tell if an entity is a satellite emergency department, a hospital owned non-emergency department clinic, or an independent urgent care clinic. Each of these entities bill at very different rates and the lack of clarity can end up costing patients a significant amount of money as well as causing unnecessary delays in the actual emergency departments for patients who have critical care needs. This bill is still a work in progress as we need to be sure we capture all of the entities that offer similar services. I look forward to working with this committee as well as Senator Fasano and others to assist patients in choosing the most appropriate level of care.

HB 5295 would require that all pharmaceutical sales representatives be certified; I believe this would represent sound public policy. I would also like to include in this legislation a requirement that anytime that a pharmaceutical sales representative meets with a physician regarding a specific prescription drug, the representative would have to disclose the actual price of the drug to the physician.

HB 5215 makes some changes to the Office of Health Care Access hospital Certificate of Need statutes regarding hospital transactions. Some of these changes are very positive. I strongly support the requirement that the "independent consultant" have no financial ties to the entity. I would have thought that the word "independent" would have made that intent clear but some recent actions in which the entity hired a consultant with

which it had financial ties makes this change necessary. I also appreciate the stronger enforcement language and the fact that under the bill conduct does not have to be willful to trigger enforcement action. In addition requiring hospitals to post their charge master lists is good policy.

HB 5296 would identify ways for the state to partner with community hospitals. I strongly support this concept and would also draw the Committee's attention to the report that CHEFA completed in conjunction with PA 15-146 regarding ways the state could assist community hospitals.

HB 5161 would require all persons (not just those in the front seat) in motor vehicles to wear seat belts. This legislation would save lives.

SB 219 would increase from 17 to 18 the age when persons could avail themselves of tanning salons. It is my understanding that the evidence is strong regarding the link between tanning and skin cancer; I support this bill.

Thank you for hearing these important bills.