



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE RUTIGLIANO
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
Dave.Rutigliano@housegop.ct.gov

HOUSE REPUBLICAN WHIP

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

In support of H.B. 6087, AN ACT RESTRICTING THE USE OF PRIOR CLAIMS
HISTORIES CONCERNING NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Lessar, Scanlon, Ranking Members Kelly, Pavalock-D'Amato and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for granting HB 6087 a public hearing, and for the opportunity to speak in support of this bill. As you know NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE also known as NARCAN is a lifesaving drug that reverses the effects of an overdose. Over the past few years we have encouraged people to carry NARCAN and we have done our best to make it more available to first responders and the general public.

NARCAN cannot be self-administered; it is one of the only prescriptions that you have filled for "others". We are receiving reports that some people who have filled the prescription for NARCAN are being denied life insurance, disability insurance or are being quoted an increased rate for health insurance. These folks are being "red flagged" for possible drug addiction or simply as the "use of drugs". We believe that people should be encouraged to carry this life saving drug and we ask that you remove what could be a potential barrier to this goal.

Massachusetts has recently taken action advising life and disability insurers not to deny coverage to Good Samaritans who carry the overdose-reversal drug Naloxone Hydrochloride.

The guidelines, issued earlier this month, follow a December story about a Boston nurse who was denied life insurance because she carries the drug.

The Bulletin, from the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, says rejecting disability, life or long-term care insurance applicants because they carry Naloxone Hydrochloride to help others "would defeat the Commonwealth's important public health efforts."

Thank you for your time on this most important matter and for your consideration.