

Legislative Testimony
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Proposed HB 6088 - An Act Concerning Disclosure of Certain Third-Party
Administrator Fees
Thursday, February 14, 2019

Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Dr Annemarie DeLessio-Matta. I am a Pediatric Dentist in Southbury and have practiced in Connecticut for 20 years. I graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1993 then completed my general practice residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital the following year. In 1997, I completed my residency in Pediatric Dentistry at St. Barnabas Hospital in Bronx NY. I am a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Association and the Connecticut State Dental Association. I am currently the Vice President of the Dental Society of Greater Waterbury and a Board of Governor representing District 3 of the Connecticut State Dental Association. I also serve on the CSDA's Membership Committee, the Access to Care Committee and have participated in Mission of Mercy and Give Kids a Smile. I am writing in support of HB 6088 – An Act Concerning Disclosure of Certain Third-Party Administrator Fees.

As an owner of a Pediatric Office, I feel it is my duty to accept Medicaid insurance and currently these patients compose 35% of my patient population. I have been able to survive financially the past 20 years due to a balance of patients with other insurance plans and those who pay out of pocket themselves. But recently, the insurance companies I have had a relationship for years, have changed their parameters and are reimbursing me less for the same work and often requiring me to write off what they don't cover. Because of this, I am starting to struggle financially. I have 20 employees who rely on their income so I'm up against the wall to try to cut costs without jeopardizing the salaries and to try and maintain the quality care I provide. This bill allows for greater transparency and levels the playing field between insurance companies and providers. This bill would allow patients to understand what their insurance covers, plus provides greater transparency in negotiations between insurance companies and providers. In addition, this bill would also allow for consistent benefit application across medical and dental professions. In the end, it will benefit all dentists in our state and help them stay afloat to provide for their staff and patients.

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to adopt HB 6088.

Respectfully Submitted,

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