



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN M. JOHNSON
FORTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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CHAIRMAN
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MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Testimony from Representative Susan Johnson

In Support for Senate Bill 1 An Act Concerning Diabetes and High Deductible Health Plans.

Chairmen Lesser, Scanlon; Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Distinguished Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1, An Act Concerning Diabetes and High Deductible Health Plans.

I am also in support of House Bill 5251 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Health Insurance Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants in This State.

I'm State Representative Susan Johnson, I represent the 49th House District of the Town of Windham. I am in full support of capping the cost of a monthly dose of insulin at \$50, the lowest rate in the United States and capping supply costs at \$100 per month.

According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 11.4 percent (354,240 people) of Connecticut's population has diabetes while 36.5 percent (997,000 people) are prediabetic. Every year, it is estimated that 11,000 in Connecticut are diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes is the seventh-leading cause of death in the state and I believe that limiting the cost of treatment will reduce the burden on Connecticut families and ensure that those who need this life saving drug do not have to choose between surviving and putting food on their table, paying their mortgage or rent, or other necessary expenses.

I support House Bill 5251 An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Health Insurance Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants in this State. Most undocumented people do not receive health treatment until their medical condition has advanced. Because they do not have health coverage, they do not receive preventative care like health screenings, immunizations, or

check-ups. This then results in the progression of an otherwise simple medical issue and the patient must seek care in the emergency room. Their emergency room visit may cost hundreds of dollars and if they cannot afford it, that expense is passed on to others.

Accessible medical care reduces public health risks for a healthier society. Health insurance may protect individuals from expensive medical costs and provide preventative care.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration on these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Susan Johnson

State Representative – 49th Assembly District