

Testimony Before The Human Services Committee

March 4, 2021

H.B. 6446 An Act Concerning The Governor's Budget For Human Services

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Good morning Sen. Moore, Rep. Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Elizabeth Brandt, and I'm a registered voter in Fairfield, CT.

I oppose the Governor's recommendation to impose an Asset Test for the Medicare Savings Program. Imagine this scene:

Your doctor prescribes a life-saving, miracle pill that allows you to be successfully treated at home for a serious illness. There's only one problem. The drug is very expensive. Would you take that drug? You could, if you had a Medicare Savings Program. Along with the MSP, one gets both the Low -Income Drug Subsidy from Medicare, as well as payment of the \$148.50 Medicare Part B monthly premium. I take Imbruvica, which costs up to \$15,500 a month! I paid a co-pay of \$9.20. Medicare paid the difference. Now, imagine how frightened you would feel if the State pulled the rug out from under you by denying you the Medicare Savings Program, including that Medicare monthly Part B premium, as well as Medicare's Low Income Drug Subsidy, because you had some sacrificial savings! This is how we seniors feel.

Since CT abolished the popular ConnPACE prescription program, & forced seniors to rely on Medicare Drug Plans, the State has saved millions of dollars!

The related proposed \$1500 life insurance limit won't even pay for a cremation!

Low income elders have gone without to save for a rainy day. Medicare doesn't cover dental care or hearing aids, for example. My car is 18-years old. (\$7,500+ to replace.) Don't take away our health insurance, in a pandemic, penalizing us for our hard-won savings. An Asset Test for the MSP will cost the State more in extra labor than it will save in program funds. Don't balance the State Budget on the backs of CT's seniors. I urge you to **reject any** Asset Limit for the Medicare Savings Program.

Thank you for listening to my testimony today.

