

**Testimony in Support House Bill 6096**  
**AN ACT RESTRAINING CHANGES TO HEALTH INSURERS' PRESCRIPTION**  
**DRUG FORMULARIES.**  
**Insurance and Real Estate Committee**  
**February 14, 2019**

Senator Lesser and Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physician-in-training members of Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **House Bill 6096 AN ACT RESTRAINING CHANGES TO HEALTH INSURERS' PRESCRIPTION DRUG FORMULARIES.**

CSMS strongly supports the need for consistency of formulates during a coverage period and care delivery episode, whether that is a few days, a few weeks, or ongoing maintenance. House Bill 6096 provides such protections to patients who are receiving medications or may need medications based on their medical conditions. Patients often make health insurance decisions based on coverage, provider networks, and costs of insurance. This decision includes review of the insurer's pharmaceutical coverage, associated cost and medication teiring.

Unfortunately, all too often insurers change these tiers, change their cost structure, and change their coverage of medications during the coverage and care delivery period. This leaves patients to absorb increased costs or requires them to receive alternative medications that may not provide the level of treatment necessary. Physicians are also often at a loss due to rapidly changing formularies. Physicians frequently spend hours each week dealing with appeals and/or authorizations for other medications. Often, the patient does not become aware of these changes until they pick up their regular medication and it has been changed, either to a different brand or medication altogether. This can impact treatment and care delivery, as well as adherence to the treatment regimen prescribed by their physician.

House Bill 6096 provides some much-needed stability and certainty tied to health insurance formularies. It seeks to protect patients from unwarranted changes that are not consistent with their medically necessary treatment. We understand the importance of generic medications and the need to protect patient safety when medications are identified by governmental agencies or independent medical experts in the respective medical specialty as not safe or effective. However, the constant changes to formularies by insurers has done nothing but increase the cost of treatment, lower medication adherence, and raise the administrative burden placed on physicians to manage, track, and coordinate patient medication use.