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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 37
AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF A PRESCRIBED
DRUG DURING ADVERSE DETERMINATION REVIEWS
AND EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESSES

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 7, 2019

Senators Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 37 **AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF A PRESCRIBED DRUG DURING ADVERSE DETERMINATION REVIEWS AND EXTERNAL REVIEW PROCESSES.**

CSMS supports Senate Bill 37 in that it will provide more patient protections to those patients requiring medication for treatment during their adverse determination and/or external review process procedures. While a dispute is ongoing, patients should not medically suffer when a treating physician or other medical professional or provider has recommended medication to assist in the patient's care and treatment. However, we would like to clarify that this should be for all requested or required medications, not just those received at or through a pharmacy and should include all of those received or provided in other locations, such as hospitals and associated with physician offices. Today, there are an increased number of medications administered at a physician's office or in other settings, including those treatments that may require a physician to inject or be present when a patient receives the medication, including oncology and endocrine situations for which having a medical professional administer and be present is critical in monitoring patient treatment and recovery.

While we strongly support this piece of legislation, the dispensing site or method of administration should not dictate the continuation of coverage for a prescribed medication during adverse determination reviews and/or external review processes.