

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-363

AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY

Title: FOR PODIATRISTS.

Vote Date: 3/22/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/15/2022

File No.: 357

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was requested because health insurers are paying a reduced reimbursement rate to podiatrist who are providing the same covered benefit within their scope of practice as other licensed health care providers. Certified podiatrists argue that they should be reimbursed at the same rate for the same procedures.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Martin M. Looney, President Pro Tempore, State of Connecticut Senate says the bill would prohibit health insurers from paying a reduced reimbursement to a licensed health care provider who provides a covered benefit within the provider's scope of practice solely because the provider is a podiatrist. This is matter of equity which should allow our state to retain highly qualified podiatrists.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

R. Daniel Davis, Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association is **supporting** the bill, because it is necessary to end of discrimination against podiatric physicians in insurance. For years, podiatrists have performed the same procedures as their allopathic and osteopathic counterparts but have received less payment for the same services rendered. Podiatric physicians have a mandatory three-year residency program where they rotate through the same medical rotations as allopathic and osteopathic students.

Richard Ehle asks you **support** Senate Bill 363 as it addresses podiatrists being unfairly treated by insurance reimbursements.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Michael Aronow, Immediate Past President, Connecticut Orthopaedic Society is not aware of any data that indicates podiatrists are being paid less than other health care providers providing the same covered benefit to a patient and opposes the Legislature setting or mandating reimbursement rates for any provider of health care. This bill would undermine the ability for professionals to negotiate rates and incorrectly assumes that the value provided by all service providers is equal. He asks the Committee to oppose this bill in its entirety as it may inhibit individual contracting, sets a dangerous precedent for all professionals who contract for their services and increases costs to an already burdened healthcare system.

Connecticut Association of Health Plans strongly urges the Committee's **rejection** of S.B. 363. Connecticut already ranks as one of the most mandate-rich states in the nation. As such, fully insured health insurance policies in the state are among the nation's most expensive. Connecticut residents can't afford passage of S.B. 363.

David Godbout **opposes** the bill.

Reported by: Daniil Toropov

Date: 3/24/2022