

General Law Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-80

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN DRUGS PRESCRIBED

Title: TO TREAT TYPE II DIABETES.

Vote Date: 3/2/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/7/2023

File No.: 94

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Kevin D. Kelly, 21st District

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would ensure that patients who are diagnosed with type II diabetes can have prescriptions filled for dulaglutide (Trulicity) and semaglutide (Ozempic). Many doctors currently are writing prescriptions for these crucial medications to help their patients with weight loss causing a shortage and impacting those trying to get this necessary diabetes medication. By passing this bill, it would ensure that this medication is available for those with type II diabetes versus for weight loss.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Michelle Seagull, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, State of Connecticut

Commissioner Seagull writes that this bill would allow DCP to restrict the prescribing of Trulicity and Ozempic to patients whose medical practitioners prescribe this medication for weight loss and ensure availability to those diagnosed with Type II Diabetes. If the Commissioner determines there is a shortage of these drugs in Connecticut this bill would give DCP authority to intervene. There are some logistical challenges to implementing this proposal, one being practitioners disclose the medical diagnosis if they prescribe this medication. It should be noted, shortages of medication often happen nationally for various drugs. The process for DCP to intervene would require additional resources and should not be limited to these two drugs. DCP will be happy to work with the proponent on this issue.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Jeffrey Harris, BHHSNE Properties:

Mr. Harris supports this bill. Type II diabetes is a serious health condition that when uncontrolled can cause heart disease or heart attack, stroke, kidney damage, nerve damage,

eye damage and skin problems. Over the past 20 years Mr. Harris struggled with maintaining a healthy blood sugar level. In July of last year, Mr. Harris' doctor prescribed Trulicity, his A1c improved. Then in November and December, Mr. Harris was not able to get this medication due to a shortage and was told that the supply would not get back to normal until March. When investigating he found it was due to Trulicity and similar drugs being prescribed to perfectly healthy patients for weight loss. There are other diabetics who are having the same difficulty finding their medication due to this shortage. Using these drugs for weight loss when someone is otherwise healthy is not fair to diabetics who need to use this drug for a health condition like type II diabetes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/2/2023