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Testimony in support of:

HB 6870: An Act Addressing Patients' Prescription Drug Costs

Senator Cabrera, Representative Wood, Senator Hwang, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 6870: An Act Addressing Patients' Prescription Drug Costs. Connecticut residents are struggling with increased healthcare costs, especially at the pharmacy counter. I thank the Governor for introducing this legislation because its finally time that we take action to ensure nobody must make the difficult choice of affording their lifesaving medication instead of their rent or groceries.

I am in strong support of the bill's provisions that would allow us to import prescription drugs from Canada and limit the cost of generics to their reference price. These are important measures we can take right now to make healthcare more affordable.

I want to highlight another important piece of this legislation that requires health insurance companies to credit out-of-network drug costs to an enrollee's annual deductible. With the prevalence of high-deductible health plans, residents are often shelling out hundreds if not thousands on out-of-pocket healthcare expenses. If someone can find a cheaper alternative to purchase their medication out of network, then they shouldn't be punished for it by their insurance company.

This bill will give everyone the freedom to explore the most affordable access to drugs without having to worry those costs aren't going toward meeting their deductible.

This is especially beneficial for members of ArrayRx, the state's first discount drug program that my office administers. Realizing the growing burden of drug costs in 2023, the legislature established the program to allow residents to save money on prescription drugs by taking advantage of a consortium of other states to gain access to lower prices out of network. Residents have saved an average of \$200 – 80% on generics and 20% on brand name – at 98% of pharmacies across the state by using their ArrayRx card. If this bill passes, the growing number of residents taking advantage of this program will be able to have these purchases applied to their annual deductible.

I strongly urge passage of HB 6870 because residents are fed up with the cost of their medication and its finally time we act.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Scanlon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" and the last name "Scanlon" written in a single, continuous stroke.

Sean Scanlon
State Comptroller