

Additional testimony on H.65, from Terry Keegan.  
Submitted by Rep. Cindy Weed  
An act relating to health insurance coverage for enteral formula for home use

From Terry Keegan

From: "goldie@svcable.net" <goldie@svcable.net>  
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 2:40:02 PM  
To: "Cindy Weed" <CWeed@leg.state.vt.us>  
Subject: H65

Dear Rep. Weed,

I understand you are a member of the House Committee on Health Care as as such one of the sponsors of House bill 65 which will require health insurance coverage for home use of nonprescription enteral formula. I would like to express my appreciation of your interest and support of this legislation. My husband, Michael, has a lifelong history of serious, chronic food allergies and malabsorption syndrome. Over time this restricted diet resulted in severe malnutrition requiring identifying a source of alternate nutrition to rebuild and sustain his physical well being. In 1990 his physician introduced him to an enteral nutrition formula that gives him the basic nutrients that you and I ingest so easily and without thought in our daily diets. For Michael oral enteral nutrition is his primary source of nutrients and without it he would die of malnutrition. In moving forward with the H65 I would ask the the committee keep in mind that while most people who rely on this kind of nutrition have G-tubes, there is a subgroup who ingests this formula orally. This alternative means of ingesting makes it no less critical to their care and well being. Michael is also cancer survivor, having been diagnosed with small intestinal cancer in July of 2001. Physicians at Sloan Kettering where he was treated identified the longstanding food allergies and the subsequent internal inflammation as causative factors of his cancer. H65 would provide Vermonters who rely on enteral nutrition as an essential component of their nutritional needs a way to do so. It would go a long way in assuring both the physical and mental well being for individuals who rely on this form of nutrition to sustain a quality of life for themselves and their families.

Please let me know what I can do to support the passage of this legislation.

Many thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Terry Keegan