

Submitter: Ciara Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4130

Hi, my name is Ciara Jones and I am a registered dietitian. I am in support of this bill, because as a dietitian, I have seen patients care affected by what corporations, and or insurances will or will not cover no matter the medical necessity. I've seen patients suffer with side effects and intolerance to tube feeds because their insurance would not cover the specialty formula. They did tolerate. Not only did this have negative impact on the patient. It also increased their length to stay in the hospital. I've seen patients who have G.I. issues (such as bowel obstructions and persistent nausea and vomiting) that should not be on tube feeds, going home on tube feeds because their insurance would not cover parental nutrition or IV nutrition as some might call it. Most of the time this resulted readmission for the patient. It also increased time of suffering with the same symptoms due to their insurance, not covering the necessary procedures, equipment, and interventions that would improve the patients symptoms and their quality of life. Healthcare should not be left up to an algorithm that puts the profits over patient care and medical necessity. Corporations should not be allowed to dictate what is and is not medically necessary for a patient based off of how much they must pay for a service. The defeat we feel as clinicians when we are unable to provide the best interventions or the best care for a patient based off of what their insurance would, or would not cover, is disheartening. We spent several years training and becoming educated on the best evidence based practices, and we are hindered from doing our jobs based on a corporation whose decisions aren't science or medicine, but by how much they pay.