

Economic Matters Committee

HB 260

Support Bill

Cancer Support Foundation
Cindy Carter Executive Director

I am Executive Director of Cancer Support Foundation and here to speak for our clients as well as all of those who are facing medical challenges.

Since 2015 I have worked with a program that has now become law called the Critical Medical Needs Program. We work with people who had very high bills many times they were using the services of the electric and gas suppliers through a third-party supplier. Many times, they did not even know what we were talking about, and did not know how they had even signed up. Some told me how they were approached and did not really understand that after the encounter they had actually become a third-party customer.

We are dealing with people who are fighting for their lives. We are dealing with people who can barely manage everyday challenges and are facing their power turned off. We are dealing with people who see bills like the one on this slide. You can see that this person was charged more than if they were not on this service.

This bill would lay the foundation to start getting data to show the actual charges to customers of these services. This is important to so many who are helped through the CMNP. First of all, these clients need to be in a service that is not making it more difficult for them to pay their bills. Information helps them make better choices.

Secondly, low income clients many of whom are in CMNP, are getting state assistance to pay their utility bills. Why should state funding be used to pay these bills with inflated rates?

Cindy Carter
Executive Director
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