

Finance Committee

SB 681

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. This program helps anyone with a medical challenge have assistance in the application process for help with their electric and heating bill.

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.

When one goes into a contract for any service there is an understanding of what is charged up front. Those terms should not be changed without written consent.

This bill would require that a customer's rate from an electricity or gas supplier not be changed from a fixed rate to a variable rate without written consent from the customer.

I have a contract with my furnace company at a set rate for the whole year. If the rates for the next year change, I have to sign a new contract. Businesses if they want to stay in business work this way. I am not sure why electric and gas suppliers should not be held to the same practice.

This change in rate practice can be very harmful to those who are ill and struggling to pay their bills already.

Cancer Support Foundation supports SB 681 to not allow change of electric and gas suppliers rates from a fixed rate to a variable rate without getting customer's written consent.