

Testimony Opposing SB341

March 10th, 2016

Dear Honorable Rep. Hawkins and members of the Health and Human Services Committee;

Forgive me for bothering you, but I have a question about SB341 that I wished for your consideration.

My friends getting mental health services are on Medicaid and have 'spend down' accounts which turn over every 6 months and I'm concerned that they'll burn through their deductible paying for generics.

While less costly, it isn't unheard of that a bottle of pills can be a \$100 dollars and folks might be forced to choose between rent and meds.

While there is a protected income that is calculated into the 'spend down' equation, this income might not be sufficient to make ends meet and my concern lies with SB341, a bill that would lead to the promotion of generics over name brand prescriptions..

Name brands might be more costly, but a lot of us don't have Medicare Part D, so we're dependent on Patient Assistance Programs through the manufacturer. Being forced on generics means that we pay more for meds as manufacturers don't give out assistance for generics..

Will SB341 force a choice between rent and meds?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keri Strahler