

alzheimer's association®

Aloha Chapter

LATE

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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SB 2494 RELATING TO INSURANCE

Testimony of
Elizabeth Stevenson
Executive Director/CEO
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
10:00am

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Baker and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

The Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter strongly supports SB2494. SB2494 requires health insurers and like entities to offer at least the same drug coverage to the insured that the insured had under the insured's previous policy with a different insurer or like entity.

The treatment for Alzheimer's disease requires careful treatment and monitoring of physician care and drug treatment. In particular, unnecessary changes in medication are highly adverse to patients, particularly if the current therapy is working. Alzheimer's patients that switch medications have a greater loss of their cognitive function that they are not able to regain.

SB2494 provides patients with the assurance that they will receive continuity of care for prescription medications should patients change health plans. Too often insurance carriers will restrict or require patients to use alternative medications or generic drugs upon switching to new plans or at the beginning of the new enrollment period. Continuity becomes even more important for older patients who often rely on the size, shape and color of the pills they are taking and a change in medication may result in non-compliance with their treatment regime.

We believe that such practice is inappropriate and detrimental to patient care.

Please ensure that patients have optimal and effective coverage for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. We urge your support of SB2494.