

January, 28, 2020

Attention to Interim Committee:

My name is Heidi Englund,

I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 10 years ago, while I was working for the State of Nevada until 2016 when my medication was withheld from me by the Specialty Pharmacy through Public Employees Benefits Program, causing me to get so sick I lost the feeling in my arms and hands, and suffered with two new lesions in my brain, causing me to retire on Nevada's Public Employees Retirement System, Disability Retirement. I still cannot feel my arms and hands, and spasticity is causing pain in my hands.

My latest of many struggles problem arose with having insurance through United Healthcare's specialty pharmacy. I wanted to refill a specific drug that aids in how I can use my arms and legs. Through my insurance, my cost monthly cost would be \$1100.00. My monthly cost through the actual drugs assistant payment program would be \$2000.00. I called my neurologist office to ask if anything was possible to substitute this drug. The prescription nurse remembered that another patient needed help with this drug, and the decision was to have it made through Sierra Compounding pharmacy, here in Reno. Monthly cost to me, \$120.00. Why \$120.00 and not \$2000.00? we know it is because of all the people who want to make money on our medications, making it impossible for people like me who just need medication to function; and be able to take care of myself.

Just this week, we have a fuether complication: My husband lost his job, and **in three more day**, we will have no insurance at all. That means I will not be receiving my next infusion of my MS medication, and that is a very bad thing for me, because when you to interrupt MS treatment your immune system attcks you. What am I going to do?

At least I will be able to buy myself one drug for \$120.00.

I do not qualify for any for any Medicare or Medicaid for a few reasons, which are too lengthy to go into, but I hope to qualify in 10 more years.

We need access to affordable medication without being tortured through this terrible process! Please continue helping the people of Nevada!

Heidi Englund