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Finance Committee

SB31

Support

Cindy Carter
Cancer Support Foundation

I am Cindy Carter Executive Director of Cancer Support Foundation and here to speak in support of SB31. This is a common sense and compassionate approach to making sure that those who get energy assistance grants are able to get the full benefit from the program.

Every year State and Federal grants are available for those who qualify for energy assistance grants. We are not opposed to allowing people to have choice in who they buy a product, in this case electricity and gas for their homes. However, if that product is sold at a higher than standard rate, grants are diminished in their effectiveness.

Here is an example that illustrates the issue. Two clients have the same usage but one is at standard rate and the other at a higher rate for their electric bill. The client at standard rate has a \$600 bill and gets a \$1000 grant which leaves them more credit for usage going forward. The other client has a \$1000 bill and gets a \$1000 grant which leave no credit for usage going forward.

The money paying these grants are State, Federal and yes rate payer funds. This funding needs to be used in a fiscally responsible way to help those who need it the most. When bills still have a balance non-profits step in to help pay. This is a non-sustainable request of non-profits.

SB 31 provides a mechanism for protection of those receiving these grants. It provides for a fiscally responsible use of State, Federal, and non-profit funding. It provides protection for the purpose of the grant program and sustainability of programs that are there to help the most vulnerable.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Carter".

Cindy Carter
Executive Director
Cancer Support Foundation