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SENATOR BLUMENTHAL INCLUDES TORRINGTON HEALTH CENTER IN HIS  
“SUMMER OF ACTION” INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

TORRINGTON, CT, August 7—Senator Richard Blumenthal visited Community Health and Wellness Center (CHWC) in Torrington yesterday (Monday, August 6th) to discuss his “summer of action” initiative to address prescription drug prices.

The senator is visiting health centers, senior centers, and other locations across Connecticut to push for action in Congress on a series of proposals he’s helped to lead, including measures to increase transparency in drug pricing, give Medicare new abilities to negotiate prices, restrict direct-to-consumer ads, require pharmacy middlemen to act in the best interest of patients, address anti-competitive practices around access to affordable generics, and to combat price gouging.

The importance of this is that patients who are uninsured or underinsured, who cannot afford the high cost of their prescription drugs needed to help control symptoms of their chronic conditions, will suffer adverse effects, which in some cases may be life threatening. Additionally, it is likely these patients will end up in the emergency room acutely ill, admitted to the hospital for a several day stay, which will not be paid for, adding to the overall cost of healthcare and contributing to poor patient outcomes.

“We were very pleased to host Senator Blumenthal and participate in this very important discussion,” says Joanne Borduas, CEO of CHWC. “Action from Congress to ensure an alternative to high cost drugs is an invaluable measure, and affording medications to treat a patient’s illness—like access to health care—should be a right, not a privilege.”

During his rounds at CHWC, Senator Blumenthal toured the facility’s new pharmacy, Community Health Rx, where Borduas introduced him to Brian Brousseau, pharmacy’s manager.

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