



Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging

Submitted to the Human Services Committee

February 15, 2007

In Support of

House Bill 5637, An Act Concerning the Regulation of Nursing Pool Rates by the Department of Social Services.

The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging (CANPFA) represents the full continuum of aging services for consumers: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, and nursing homes. We are pleased to submit the following testimony in support of House Bill 5637, An Act Concerning the Regulation of Nursing Pool Rates by the Department of Social Services.

CANPFA supports some level of regulation to monitor the practices of nursing pool services. It is unfortunate that the current nursing shortage has forced the health care industry to become so reliant upon nursing pool services, but that is the reality. These services take full advantage of the desperate need that many nursing homes, home care agencies, and other health care services often find themselves in when trying to maintain licensed nursing staff levels on night shifts, during weekends, on holidays, and in areas of the state where other high paying industries compete for the same workforce. The continuously rising price of these services is a drain on the individual provider and a drain on the entire system.

We believe that some regulatory rationale needs to be put into place. While reputable staffing agencies that strive to provide quality temporary services are invaluable to long-term care providers, the agencies that seek only to drive the profitability of the industry are causing increasing problems for the entire system and justify the need for regulation of the nursing pool industry. That is why we are submitting testimony in support of legislation to regulate nursing pool rates.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.