

Feb. 15, 2007

Mr. Chairman & Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee:

Thank you for your time this morning. My name is Anthony Simonetti, I reside at 6 Hayfield Dr. Shelton, CT 06484. I have been working in the LTC industry for over 45 years.

My father, with several other pioneers in this industry helped establish within Connecticut the most comprehensive programs of quality care in the USA that still exist today.

I am hear in support of Proposed HB # 6036

I am one of the owners of Marshall Lane Manor and Clintonville Manor. They are both 120 bed LTC facilities and are designated as Intermediate Care Facilities/Rest Homes with Nursing Supervision. The ICF/RH designation was formulated over 40 years ago as a cost savings measure for the State of CT welfare system. However I feel we have drifted away from this concept.

The ICF/RH LTC Facility was set up to care for persons who require less professional care and custodial care than at a Skilled Facility level but are unable to live independently, in a group setting or with family. It was less expensive alternative for the State of CT. The ICF/RH is operated with in the same parameters of the Skilled Nursing Facility or SNF. The ICF/RH now carries the designation of Nursing

Facility because they are now part of the MEDICARE or Title 18 as well as MEDICAID or Title-19 program.

My concern is that the new regulations which are added each year demand more and more staff as well as other added expenses not compensated for by the DSS regulations.

As the population of the state and our nation grays at a rate greater than we have ever seen before I feel the state of Connecticut should make every effort to find savings in the DSS budget.

Our facility receives a rate of 122.00/diem to care for Title 19 assisted Residents. This includes a \$15.95/day tax which is returned to the state coffers each month. So essentially we are receiving \$107.00 to provide 24/7 Professional Nursing services, Certified Nurses Aide services, 3 meals, 2-4 snacks, all the comforts of home including cable TV, activities, laundry and social services programs for what you can not find a room for at a local hotel. AND we are only subject to less scrutiny by surveyors/inspectors, auditors and the like than the nuclear power plant industry.

Our cost like that of any other business have skyrocketed

Our facilities are efficiently managed and we are financially frugal. This has led us to very low DSS per diem rates.

HB #6036 requests that ICF/RH designated LTC facilities be afforded a more fair and cost effective manner of reimbursement. We simply wish to receive 85% of the mean/average per diem rate of the SNF facilities within the state of Connecticut. At this time our Medicaid rate does not allow us any incentive or enough funds to make major repairs, purchase or update expensive equipment or more importantly give our staff raises and benefits that they so badly deserve. We compete for staff and services with facilities in the Metropolitan New Haven and Bridgeport areas against medical giants like Yale NH, St. Raphael's', St. Vincent's', Griffin Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital and several others.

We are forced to utilize interim rates to meet most of our needs in this area. This creates accounting nightmares in computing our financial future and trying to account for our costs and spending.

Our facilities are allowed to change their licenses over to Skilled Nursing Facility licenses. This would add a larger burden to the DSS budget than what HB # 6036 requests.

I encourage you to modify HB 6036 as indicate below, approve same and forwarded it on for review and approval.(the following should be removed from it , "*chronic and convalescent nursing homes*" in the second line of the text.) See attached copy.

Your assistance in this matter is very much appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me at the number below and I welcome each of you and the public to visit our facility at anytime.

Anthony F. Simonetti, Adm./Pres
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cc. Rep. R. Belden, 113th Dist
Rep. Klarides, 114th Dist.
Rep. Miller, 122, Dist.



General Assembly
January Session, 2007

Proposed Bill No. 6036
LCO No. 2831

MODIFICATION
BELOW

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

REP. BELDEN, 113th Dist.

REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.

REP. MILLER, 122nd Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO REST HOMES WITH NURSING SUPERVISION, CHRONIC AND CONVALESCENT NURSING HOMES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That section 17b-340 of the general statutes be amended to provide that the Commissioner of Social Services shall reimburse rest homes with nursing supervision, ~~chronic and convalescent nursing homes~~ and intermediate care facilities at a rate that is eighty-five per cent of mean average of the rate paid by the Department of Social Services to skilled nursing facilities, provided the state reimbursement rate to such facilities shall not exceed private pay rates for the same facilities.

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure the continued viability of rest homes with nursing supervision, chronic and convalescent nursing homes and intermediate care facilities and create future cost savings.