



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

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TESTIMONY

Human Services Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2007

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program respectfully submits this written testimony regarding proposed bills before you today. The essential role of the Ombudsman Program is to advocate for consumers of long term care in our State. The Ombudsman Program believes Connecticut is at the crossroads of a brighter future for all long-term care consumers. There are increasing options for care in a wider variety of settings. It is important that these options be available to all consumers, regardless of their ability to privately pay for services.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program respectfully urges your support of these proposed bills:

Proposed S.B. No. 568 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF ASSISTED LIVING AS A COVERED LONG-TERM CARE OPTION UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.

To make long-term care more accessible to all individuals in the state.

Proposed H.B. No. 5642 AN ACT PERMITTING ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES TO BE COVERED AS A LONG-TERM CARE PLACEMENT OPTION UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.

To allow assisted living facilities to be a covered long-term care option under the Medicaid program.

As a consumer protection advocate, the Program supports full disclosure of information that will impact residents of long term care facilities and asks that you give your consideration to the following proposed bill:

Proposed H.B. No. 5639 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REQUESTS OF CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES TO CLOSE OR REDUCE BED CAPACITY.

To provide public input prior to the Department of Social Services approving the request of a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision for a reduction in bed capacity or closure of the facility.

The Program respectfully requests your consideration of the following proposed bill as well and requests that you base any increases on outcomes and performance:

Proposed H.B. No. 6036 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO REST HOMES WITH NURSING SUPERVISION, CHRONIC AND CONVALESCENT NURSING HOMES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES.

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.