

Public Health Committee

Bill 7222

March 5, 2007

Hello Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee. New England Home Care and the VNA Community Healthcare would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on Bill 7222, An Act Concerning Use of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in Residential Homes.

As we read this bill, it is our understanding that it attempts to clarify the regulations that apply to certified, unlicensed personnel in residential homes. It appears the purpose of the language is to codify existing statute. Both New England Home Care and the VNA Community Healthcare would like to work with the legislature, the Department of Public Health and the residential homes as this bill travels through the legislative process to identify a solution that provides guidance to us all and produces the best care for the residents.

We raise one specific issue with the bill and it concerns the fact that we have no direct oversight of these unlicensed personnel. We hope that in future drafts of the legislation there is specific reference to the fact that employers are the ones responsible for their personnel.

The current system is one that is very complicated and it is often difficult to understand all the complexities at work. By having all us work together, we are sure that an effective, efficient plan can be established to ensure residents the highest possible quality of care.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you.