

RIDGEFIELD CLERGY ASSOCIATION

February 28, 2007

Dear Joint Committee on Human Services,

It has recently come to the attention of the clergy association of Ridgefield, CT that Connecticut is one of only 3 states that has not elected the hospice benefit as an optional benefit under the Medicaid program. After a discussion among the clergy of various Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish congregations in Ridgefield, we have come to the conclusion that Connecticut would gain significantly by electing the hospice benefit under Medicaid.

Election of the benefit would: provide access to hospice care for low-income, under-65 residents of nursing homes and during hospitalizations and allow reimbursement for Social Workers, bereavement services and durable medical equipment.

We would like to encourage the General Assembly to study the advisability of the following bill: **Proposed H.B. No. 6039**, entitled "An act concerning the availability of hospice care as a covered service under the Medicaid program."

Sincerely,

(Name)	(Faith Community)
Rev. Mark Cella	of First Congr. Church, Ridgefield, CT
Rev. Rell Ford	of Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Ridgefield
Rev. Phyllis V. Leopold	of Assoc. of Religious Communities (ARC)
Rev. Howard A. Taylor	of Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist, Ridgefield
Rev. Fred H. Jucipin	of First Congregational Danbury
Rebecca K. Kell	of Temple Church Danbury - Ridgefield, CT
Rev. Emily Richards	of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Polly Caator	of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Ridgefield
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_____	of _____
_____	of _____