



**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers
February 8, 2007**

In support of SB#572-An Act increasing Reimbursement for Providers of ADC Services

In support of HB #5301-An Act Concerning Rates for Adult Day Care Services

In support of SB#384- An Act Increasing Funding for the Home Care Program for the Elderly

In support of HB#5663- An Act Increasing Funding for the Home Care Program for the Elderly Program

Prepared by Holly Ann Vannucci, RN, BSN, MSNc

Good afternoon, my name is Holly Vannucci. I am a registered nurse and the Director of the Enfield Adult Day Center and the 1st Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers. I am also a member of the Long Term Care Advisory Council here at the Capitol.

Adult Day Centers provide high quality cost effective community based services. We are funded primarily through the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE/Medicaid-waiver). I am here today to testify in support of **Bills #572 and #5301, An Act Increasing Reimbursement Rates for Providers of Adult Day Care Services.**

On behalf of CAADC I would like to first thank Senator Kissel, Senator Harris, Representative Tallarita, Representative Villano, Senator Prague, Senator Meyer and Representative Panaroni and all the members of the Human Service Committee for their past efforts, support, dedication and understanding of the issues Adult Day Centers face here in Connecticut. I would also like to thank the members of the Long Term Care Advisory Council for their past and present support.

The current reimbursement rate for an adult day center is \$61.70 per client per day. Our average cost per client per day in Connecticut is \$78.00. Our centers not only provide socialization and recreation for seniors and the disabled, but we provide nursing services including vital signs, blood sugar

monitoring, medication administration, respiratory treatments, dressing changes, care management, personal care, showering, dietary monitoring, social work services, therapeutic recreation activities, rehab services and wheel chair escorted transportation. We communicate on a daily basis with clients' physicians to coordinate their care.

The Association presently represents 51 centers in operation. As our costs continue to rise, centers are finding it harder to stay open. Sixteen centers have closed in the past 3 years. Despite your efforts to assist us with a \$4.57 per day increase, for which we are very grateful, Adult Day Centers continue to close. Two more centers closed their doors this past year. Adult Day Centers are the only waiver reimbursed program expected to include transportation in their daily rate in addition to the services discussed. We are the best bargain in town delivering diverse quality care to the elderly and disabled. We need to cover the cost of care. Please support these efforts.

I also ask that you consider expanding the eligibility for our programs to those under the age of 65. A few weeks ago we presented our legislative agenda to the Long Term Care Advisory Council. They heard testimony of an Enfield Adult Day Center volunteer, Nancy Lee. Nancy who is under 65 spoke first hand to the need to fund the pilot program for those people under 65. Nancy reported she had a memory disability and she shared her story. It really hit home for most everyone present. Where do people get assistance when they are diagnosed with a disease such as Alzheimer's and are not eligible for the home care program for elders? Adult Day Cares can serve these people so their family members can continue to work but the funding must be there. What would you personally do if you were faced with this situation?

The Long Term Care Advisory Council has been working long and hard on the Long Term Care needs assessment. We believe this assessment will produce the data needed to show you that Adult Day Centers can fill a gap in the Long Term Care system. Attending Adult Day Care allows people to remain in their homes. It provides them with the choices they are entitled to have. Thank you for supporting these efforts as well.

CAADC Supports **S.B.No.384, H.B.No.5302, H.B.No.5663** an *Act Increasing Funding for the Home-Care Program for the Elderly.*

The Home Care Program for Elders is one of the primary funding sources for people over the age of 65 who attend Adult Day Care. Attending Adult Day Care keeps people in their homes at a cost to the state of \$61.70 per day. Remaining at home is a choice that these client's should have.

In closing, we seek legislative support for:

- Increased reimbursement for Adult Day Centers in the amount not less than of 20% per day
- Reimbursement for transportation for Adult Day Centers
- Increase eligibility for the Homecare Program for Elders Program to include people under the age of 65
- Increase funding for the Home Care Program for Elders.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony and I would be glad to answer any questions.