



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PETER J. PANARONI
ONE HUNDRED SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

25 FRANK STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405
HOME: (203) 481-8342
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0067
E-MAIL: Peter.Panaroni@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee, I am here to testify in support of H.B. 5301, an Act Concerning Rate of Payment For Home Care Services, 5302, an Act Concerning Rates of Payment for Adult Day Care Services, and 5662, an Act Concerning Payment Rates to Home Health Care Agencies.

At this time in Connecticut there are more than 29,649 persons residing in nursing homes across the state. The current cost attributed to keeping these persons in these nursing homes is approximately \$5,150.46 per month per person. The financial strain put on the State by this large number of dependant persons could be brought down significantly, however, by encouraging the growth and appropriate funding of home/community health care programs.

A larger state funded home/community health care system would not only be able to better care for elderly individuals but would also save the state a considerable amount of money. Currently 30% of Connecticut residents who require substantial medical care are provided for by home/community health services. If this percentage were be increased to 75% by the year 2025 the amount of money dedicated toward elderly health care could be cut by \$1.2 billion without running the risk of sacrificing the quality of service received.

Other states, such as Oregon and Vermont, have already made home/community based health care their top option for their elderly. In Oregon 70% of its citizens in need of substantial health care are cared for out side of nursing homes at an average cost of only \$2,099 per month per person. In Vermont the average person utilizing home/community based health care over the age of 65 costs the state approximately \$91 per day rather than the \$128 per day it would cost to institutionalize them.

In closing, I ask that you report favorably on HB 5301, HB 5302, and HB 5662, so that we may shift Connecticut's elderly care from the strongly institutionalized form it takes today, to a more affordable and dignified home and community based care. Thank You.