



Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers

In support of SB Bill #572- An Act Increasing Reimbursement Rates for Providers of Adult Day Care Services
In support of HB Bill #5301- An Act Concerning Rates of Payment for Adult Day Care Services
In support of SB Bill #384- An Act Increasing Funding for the Home Care Program for the Elderly
In support of HB Bill # 5663- An Act Increasing Funding for the Home Care for the Elderly Program

Presented by Elizabeth M. Kilroy
February 8, 2007

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Villano and Members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Elizabeth Kilroy and I am the director of the Avery Heights Adult Day Health Center in Hartford and President of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers, an organization of 50 adult day centers from across the state. I am here today accompanied by other Adult Day Center Directors to speak in strong support of *increased funding for Adult Day Centers as well as increased funding for the Connecticut Home Care for Elders Program*

Adult day centers provide high quality community based services and are funded primarily through the Department of Social Services (DSS) Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE/ Medicaid-waiver). Our programs include meals, nursing care, care management, personal care and bathing services, social work services, social and recreational activities, and wheelchair-escorted transportation - all at a fraction of the cost of skilled nursing care or assisted living. Unfortunately, as our costs continue to rise, centers are finding it harder to stay open. Severely compromising Connecticut's current system is the fact that Medicaid reimbursement rates have not kept pace with the cost of providing service. Sixteen adult day centers in Connecticut have closed in the last five years. **The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is \$78.00 per day. The state currently reimburses \$61.70 per day for a medical model Adult Day Center under the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, a loss of \$16.30 per day.** The state continues to require that we provide transportation with the cost **included in our daily rate.** We calculate transportation per client to cost our agency **\$16.00** per day. Additionally, centers do not receive reimbursement for participant absenteeism due to inclement weather or unscheduled cancellation of planned service that has adversely impacted centers. There are parts of our state that are now without an Adult Day Center near enough to allow older adults to choose this option for their care. For those who are fortunate to have a center in their area and choose this option, the benefits are immeasurable.

The Connecticut Home Care Program has demonstrated over many years its success in keeping older adults at home. Adult Day Centers play an important role in keeping many Home Care Program clients within in the community. It is an excellent partnership in caring for our shared clients. The Connecticut Association. of Adult Day Centers strongly supports increasing funding to this vital service on behalf of those already served and those who will be able to benefit from this program in the future. Those of our Adult Day Center participants who receive funding for services through this program would not be able to remain in the community without these funds, as private funds have been exhausted.

Please support an increase in the Adult Day Centers reimbursement rate to ensure that this community based option remains a viable choice for the elderly in our state. We understand the challenges the Connecticut legislature faces in 2007, to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, but we firmly believe adult day centers save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars as well as providing a vital link to the Connecticut Long-Term Care Advisory Council's recommendations towards balancing the long-term care system in Connecticut and meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers

Increased State Funding Is Needed For Adult Day Services

Adult day centers provide a cost effective alternative for families needing to care for their loved ones. With adult day services, clients are able to remain in their homes rather than moving to assisted living or a nursing home. At the same time, their quality of life is enhanced with a strong social component and a continued sense of independence. Unfortunately, while adult day centers provide a cost effective option to families, the current level of state reimbursement is making it increasingly difficult to remain a viable option.

Adult Day Centers Provide a Rich Array of Services

- Adult day centers provide help with activities of daily living, including toileting, bathing, walking, transferring, and eating.
- Medical model day centers have on-site licensed nursing staff, access to rehabilitation services, and bathing facilities in addition to the nutritional, social, recreational and other services provided by social model programs.
- Door to door transportation is provided to and from the center and these costs are bundled into the package of services provided to clients of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.
- The nursing, nutrition, rehabilitation and social services provided in adult day centers help frail elders remain at home – including many who would otherwise require nursing home placement.

Adult Day Health Care is a Cost-effective Alternative to Nursing Home Care

- A day of adult day center services currently costs the state \$61.70 (medical model) and 57.70 (social model) making them a cost effective option compared to nursing home placement where the daily rate is closer to \$211.
- By keeping clients in their homes, the net savings to the State attributable to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders add up to many millions each year.

State Payment Does Not Cover the Cost of Adult Day Health Services

- Adult day centers face financial losses with each Home Care Program client they serve.
- There are currently **50** certified adult day centers in operation, but **16** have closed in the last five years due in large part to the low state reimbursement rate.
- **The average cost to care for a client in an adult day center is approximately \$ 78.00 per day. The state currently reimburses a medical model center \$61.70 a loss of \$16.30 per day.**
- The costs of providing day services continues to rise as some clients require the assistance of two staff members for toileting and bathing; many suffer from confusion and require constant supervision.

Costs are rising due to several factors:

- **Staffing** - Adult day centers are not immune from the nursing shortage, and they typically cannot compete with the benefits and incentives larger facilities offer.
- **Transportation** - The associated costs such as insurance and fuel are significant and have risen dramatically in recent years. The requirement remains that transportation be included within the daily rate.
- **Absenteeism** - The state will not pay for scheduled clients who do not attend for the day. The center incurs the cost in anticipation of the client's attendance, but they receive no reimbursement.

Please Support State Funding for Adult Day Services that more closely represents our actual costs.