

**The Human Services Committee Public Hearing
February 28, 2008**

Testimony in support of

S.B. 414

***An act concerning the state funded home care program for the disabled,
and
personal care assistance program for the disabled.***

Good morning. My name is Marion Daly and I live in Windsor.

It is an honor and a privilege to be here to address the very people whose vote in this matter may some day determine the nature of the rest of my life.

I, like 6,000 other residents of Connecticut, have a chronic, and often progressively disabling disease. I have Multiple Sclerosis, and I am here to ask you to pass, in its entirety, Senate Bill 414.

I have read on the Connecticut General Assembly website that this bill carries the title: ***An act concerning the state funded home care program for the disabled, and personal care assistance program for the disabled.*** I think a better title would be: ***An act that will keep 70 Connecticut residents from being sequestered in a nursing home against their will.***

Who are these 70 people that this bill will help? I am here to tell you that these people are ME. Everyone who has Multiple Sclerosis knows that tomorrow could quite likely bring more and more disability.

And these 70 people that will be helped by this bill are people that you know. They are your neighbors. They are your relatives. These 70 people could include somebody that you love and care very much about. The bill is designed to help people who do not qualify for some of our other wonderful programs. Please don't forget that not everybody in need is over the age of 65. Not everybody in need qualifies for Medicare. Not everybody qualifies for Medicaid.

These 70 people have fallen through the cracks. They desperately want to stay at home in their community. They need their community and their community needs them.

As disabled as I might be, I am of value to my community. As disabled as these 70 people might be, our communities need them.

And don't forget that the money that this bill will provide will then go back into the local community where it will further stimulate the local economy by creating jobs for people who can provide these needed services.

Please, please! Support Senate Bill 414 in its entirety.

I thank you for your kind attention.