



# New England Home Care

**Taking Advanced Care to the Home**

## **Testimony of New England Home Care**

### **To the Human Services Committee**

#### **Regarding Senate Bill 662**

#### **An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility and Reimbursement**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

Hello Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of New England Home Care in support of SB 662, An Act Concerning Medicaid Eligibility and Reimbursement, specifically section 4(c).

New England Home Care works with their specialized nurses and paraprofessionals to provide quality home care to patients throughout Connecticut, and currently has a significant population requiring psychiatric care services as well as basic medical care. It is an accredited home health care agency that has home care professionals available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They work to ensure thorough nurse training, case management services, back-office support and optimum care.

New England Home Care is here to ask for your support in addressing the inadequacies in the payment to Home Health care agencies. Inadequacies in this system can be addressed by having the Commissioner of Social Services not construe a visit as limited to the administration of medication when the patient has one or more active medical conditions requiring the attention of a nurse and/or has a diagnosis of a serious and persistent mental illness which requires the interventions of a skilled mental health nurse.

Our goal is to ensure that as we deliver the dual services of psychiatric care and medical care to our patients requiring such services under one nursing visit, the complexity of such a visit is recognized and therefore adequately reimbursed.

We work with a highly fragile population, the most severe of whom are diagnosed with both psychiatric disorders as well as multiple medical diagnoses. In order to serve such a population, we ask that we obtain reimbursement which will assure us the resources to serve them in the best way that we can. We want nothing more than to provide our patients with the highest possible care, and hope that you will consider this legislation which will enable us to do so. Thank you.



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