

**Testimony of Toni M. Fatone
Executive VP
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**Human Services Committee
March 11, 2008**

Sen. Harris, Rep. Villano esteemed members of the Human Services committee, I am Toni Fatone the executive VP of the CT Association of Healthcare Facilities and I am here today to testify on SB 662 AAC Medicaid Eligibility and Reimbursement and SB665

SN 662-

Sec. 1 (j) Presumptive eligibility is an important concept that many states are considering to deal with the backlog problem they are facing. What is equally important is to ensure that DSS has the appropriate IT infrastructure needed to process applications as well as the appropriate amount of staff. Additionally the Committee should consider the role non-compliant families and the elder Bar plays in miring down the system. Penalties and sanctions should apply when families refuse to provide financial information in a timely manner and elder bar attorneys are filing one piece of information at a time to delay the process.

Sec 1(k) I caution the committee to fully understand the financial implications of this section.

Sec. 7- we support an appropriate increase for RHNS facilities. They fulfill a vital role in the LTC system.

Sec. 8- the Fair rent portion of the reimbursement system needs to be fixed. But it is not the only piece that needs to be fixed and should NOT take priority over the Zero% Medicaid rate being proposed. Far more good can be done fixing the Zero% and then the Fair rent should be addressed. This section as drafted has technical errors that could lead to a facility's rates actually dropping. If this section moves forward we will be happy to provide the Committee with the technical corrections needed- hold harmless language etc.

Sec 9- We support this important fix to the Bed Hold statute.

Sec 10- We STRONGLY OPPOSE the "new" beds provision in this section. In order for us to support this exemption to the moratorium it MUST be with existing beds only. Additionally the language should be clear that the beds are relocating from a licensed facility to another licensed facility and not just to some "location" within the municipality.

Sec. 11- we support these audit guidelines.

Sec. 13- again we really caution the Committee to understand the asset transfer implications.

Sec. 14- We support the concept of a Pending Pool.