



Senator Harris, Representative Villano, and members of the Human Services Committee:

Re: **Raised Bill 665: An Act Concerning CONTINUING CARE FACILITIES AND CONTINUING CARE AT HOME.**

My name is Renee Bernasconi, and I represent Church Home of Hartford, Incorporated, d/b/a Seabury, in Bloomfield, CT. Seabury supports Raised Bill 665, which would allow for continuing care at home programs in the State of Connecticut.

I would like to briefly share with you Seabury's history and vision for the future. In 1876, Church Home of Hartford, Incorporated, by an act of the Connecticut Legislature, was chartered as a not-for-profit, charitable corporation affiliated with the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

Seabury is a Continuing Care Retirement Community that offers a continuum of care, services, and accommodations that are designed to meet future health and housing needs, thus enabling seniors to remain in a familiar setting.

Seabury's vision is to establish a "retirement community without walls," to provide a comprehensive package of coordinated long-term care services for seniors who want the same security and access to health care as offered on the Seabury campus, but who would prefer to remain in their own homes as long as possible. This program will offer a more affordable option to seniors who may not be able to afford the entrance fee of a life-care community.

The concept is not new--the program is successfully operating in the states of Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and the District of Columbia --nor does it vary in any significant way from traditional CCRCs. There is a one-time, pre-paid membership fee, as well as a fixed monthly fee, depending on the particular program they select. In exchange, they receive a wide array of life time services from geriatric care coordination to help members navigate through a complex health care system, to nursing, homemaker, and companion services. Campus-based care for assisted living and skilled nursing are included, if one can no longer remain at home safely.

This act promotes sound public policy, by encouraging seniors to be responsible for their own future care rather than transferring assets, and potentially saves the State significant dollars by reducing the number of seniors who will require Medicaid.

According to Connecticut's Long-Term Care Needs Assessment, our State faces a long-term care crisis, with gaps in services that limit choice and the ability to remain at home. This act will open the door for many CCRC providers to answer the desires of an older population to make **home not only where the heart is, but where the health is!**

I urge you to vote yes for Raised Bill 665, and support the "Continuing Care At Home" option as an innovative, low cost alternative that offers Connecticut seniors the flexibility and autonomy to remain in their homes for as long as possible.