

The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging

Testimony to the
Housing Committee

In Support of

House Bill 5017, An Act Concerning Appropriations to Promote the Use of Assisted Living Services in Managed Residential Communities

Presented by Mag Morelli, President

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CANPFA members serve thousands of people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. Our members offer the continuum of aging services: assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, residential care homes, nursing homes, home and community based services, and senior housing.

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Green, and members of the Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the president of the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging (CANPFA), an organization of over 150 non-profit providers of aging services representing the full continuum of long term care, including affordable senior housing.

I am here tonight to speak in support House Bill 5017, An Act Concerning the Appropriations to Promote the Use of Assisted Living Services in Managed Residential Communities. The state of Connecticut currently has a very unique program available to our congregate senior housing sites. Several years ago the state modified the assisted living regulations to allow for affordable assisted living services to be brought into our state congregate sites for the residents who were aging in place. This model has allowed seniors to stay in their affordable apartments and receive the assisted living services they need in a very affordable manner. I believe that the intent of the bill before you today is to increase the appropriations to support this program.

The State of Connecticut has adopted a *Long Term Care Plan* that calls for a *balanced* system of aging services. Hoping to decrease dependence on nursing home care, the state's plan places a priority on providing home-centered care that will allow older adults to remain at home and be supported in the community. Providing affordable housing where seniors can receive the services they need is a key element to any rebalancing plan – and supporting and appropriately funding the services that are needed, such as *assisted living services*, is also essential.

As we move toward making a balanced aging services system a reality, affordable residential options with services must be made available so that low- and modest- income older adults can indeed remain in the community. The congregate program with assisted living services is such an option and I encourage this committee to continue to support it.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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