

February 27, 2009

Hello Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Elaine Zandri I am an Administrative Secretary for a Regional Education Center here in Connecticut and a caregiver for my 95-year-old Mother.

I am writing today in support of **Raised Bill No. 989, An Act Concerning the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program.** .

My husband and I are caregivers for my Mother who is 95 years old. He is with her during the day as he is retired and I work full time. My Husband had a major heart attack a few years back and the stress of being with my Mom all day every day was taking a toll on our relationship as well as him. When I looked into what was available, I was introduced to the Respite Care Program. My Mom has been attending Adult Day Care 2 days a week, not only is my husband in better spirits as he now has some time to himself, but my Mom is a new person. It has opened her world to new people and she is excited to go and now has something to talk about and look forward to. Her time she is allotted runs out in a week and we are at a crossroads as to what we can do to keep her active in this program.

This Adult Day Program is absolutely wonderful, wish I knew about it sooner not only for our sanity but also for the new life it has given my Mom.

Thank you,

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