

Written Testimony for Human Services Committee-March 3, 2009

Good morning Senator Doyle, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Linda Martin and I submit this written testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 989, An Act Concerning the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program.

My mother, Lillian G. Payne has been living through the mental and physical torments of Alzheimer's disease for the past five years. Three years ago, her states of confusion and fear associated with her condition necessitated my mother moving into our home to live with my husband, daughter and myself.

In June 2007 I contacted the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to learn more about what we would be facing and options for caring for my mother. I read the information but took no action because I believed that we could provide for my mother's care both financially and socially. I retired from work with a plan of caring for my mother along with the assistance of other family members. In November 2009 I realized that the assistance was not as available as promised and our goal of ensuring that mom lives comfortably in her community was slipping out of our grasp and that we needed help with the financial burden of continuing her at the Adult Day Care Program she loves attending. The grant that we were awarded from the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program has extended my mother's specialized care while she continues to live at home and it affords me time to run errands, work at a part-time job and for a short period of time, it allows me to keep a major financial worry at bay.

I implore you to pass the bill to consider an increase the total grant size awarded through the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program from \$3500 to \$7500 per year for special circumstances to allow more service options.

Respectfully,
Linda F. Martin