

January 27, 2009

Honorable Edith G. Prague
Honorable Joseph C. Serra
Co-Chairs
Select Committee on Aging
Room 011, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 5312
LCO # 2395

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard regarding the matter of an act concerning criminal background checks for employees of Homemaker-Companion Agencies.

I would like to suggest that self-employed, private duty, independent contractors and any operator of a registry be included in this bill. Registry operators may be registered somewhere else in the system such as Registered Nurse. I suggest that such nurse still be registered with the Department of Consumer Protection on the Homemaker-Companion Department of Consumer List. The \$300 fee could be waived.

These changes to this bill would broaden oversight of this committee and others for the benefit of consumers who are not knowledgeable of the differences between homemaker-companion, home health aides, and personal care assistants, certified nurses aides, registries, homemaker companion agencies and home health agencies. It would further help in governing providers who are falling below the radar and may be abusing the elderly population. Many elderly are hiring ICs without fully understanding the potential liability for payroll taxes and insurance related issues.

Respectfully,

Linda Huppelsberg
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