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Hospice Institute
For Education, Training and Research, Inc.

The Hospice Institute for
Education, Training and Research, Inc.

presents Testimony

in favor of

Committee Bill No. 243

An Act Concerning Training in Pain Management

Testifying.. February 19, 2009

Ronny Knight, MBA, FHFMA, Senior Vice-President of Planning
Susan Grasso, MEd. R.M., Director of Complementary Medicine
Soozi Flannigan, MSN, Co-Director of the Nursing Fellowship

Testimony Committee Bill No. 243

An Act Concerning Training in Pain Management:

- We, The Connecticut Hospice, are advocates for the ongoing education and training of nursing home staff in pain recognition and management and support this Bill.
- The Connecticut Hospice and the John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Research, Education and Training is firmly committed to raising both public and professional awareness of the treatment of pain among elderly populations residing in this community, and to bring forth our expertise to assure optimal recognition, assessment and relief of pain and suffering for all patients.
- We believe it is a patient's right to receive comprehensive pain and symptom assessment and management. Pain recognition and administration of pain management techniques is a patient's right.
- We find all Nursing Home Staff, including CNA's eager to understand and learn the principles of good pain management and we, The Connecticut Hospice, through education, are dedicated to assisting them to improve pain management outcomes for our patients regardless of diagnoses.
- We have two Fellowships in Hospice and Palliative care for nurses and physicians with syllabuses that concentrate on the core goal to improve quality of life through education in pain recognition and symptom management.
- Our interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers, volunteers, pastoral care, home health aides, nutrition and the arts including music therapy and complimentary therapy address all levels of pain – physical, emotional and spiritual.
- The core of our practice is pain and symptom management. In the nursing home environment, we provide the interdisciplinary approach to pain management. We treat the patient with multiple diagnoses with different levels of comprehension and responsiveness from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- As we have stated before, the Connecticut Hospice strongly supports this Bill for pain recognition and pain management education for direct care nursing home staff.