

# alzheimer's association™

279 New Britain Road Suite 5, Kensington, CT. 06037

(860) 828-2828 [www.alz.org/ct](http://www.alz.org/ct)

Good morning Senator Prague, Representative Serra, and distinguished members of the Select Committee on Aging. My name is Christy Kovel and I am the Senior Director of Public Policy and Communication for the Connecticut Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

I am here today to provide comments in **support** of **Raised Bill No. 814, An Act Concerning Personal Care Assistance Services Under the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly.**

The Alzheimer's Association is a donor supported, non-profit organization serving the needs of families, health care professionals, and those individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Association provides information and resources, support groups, education and training, and a 24 hour, 7 Day a week Helpline.

The primary role of a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) is to "fill in the gaps" so that the highest level of independence and socialization can be achieved. Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease is a 24/7 job, and seventy percent of those individuals with Alzheimer's disease are cared for at home. PCA's provide much needed support to caregivers who often are exhausted from the demands of caring for a loved one who has Alzheimer's disease.

PCA's provide a personalized service by providing hands-on care with five primary activities of daily living: bathing, dressing, eating, transferring and toileting. In addition, a PCA helps with social activities such as escorting while visiting friends, going on walks and outings, making light meals, and providing overall companionship.

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The average cost of a PCA is \$13.80 an hour (gross) which would cost \$110.40 for an eight hour day. The average cost of a nursing home in Connecticut is \$311.00 per day. We support the addition of Personal Care Assistance services under the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly as another cost effective option in supporting the home and community based care system for the older adults in our state who want to remain at home.