



Chairperson Ritter and all Committee Members:

Thank you for granting us testimony time today.

My name is Kathy Pajor. I am President and Administrator of Beechwood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center a 60 bed skilled nursing facility located in the city of New London in New London County.

It is an independent nursing home. Only two owners in 55 years. It is a CMS 4 star building. It is a deficiency free building.

Its primary long term utilization is 51% Medicaid with a current shortfall of over \$13 per patient per day shortfall. It has a short term 35% utilization of dual eligible patients.

Beechwood has taken care of 600 short term and outpatient patients this year.

It employs over 100 people.

New London County has faced significant lay-offs this past year with Pfizer, Foxwoods and the closing, and soon to be closed, nursing homes. Over 1,000 people not counting the restaurants, stores and small companies that have closed.

With the advent of the user provider tax in 2006 and zero % in 2008 I laid off employees in order to meet expenses: just the rise in utilities, oil, gas and food alone.

If Gov Rell's proposals of Zero % in 2010 and 2011 as well as the same increase for the cost of living, go through I, along with other nursing home Administrators, will lay off more staff.

This time it will be nurses and CNAs and the quality of care will be affected. Not perhaps, not maybe.

It will.

On the day and evening shift I will have one CNA to 15 Residents. I will have one nurse to 30 Residents. I will have skin break downs. I will have dehydrations. I will have weight losses. I will be sending patients to Backus' and Lawrence and Memorial's already crowded ERs.

Not just Beechwood. All of the nursing homes.

I will no longer have a deficiency free building. I will not have a four star building. There will be more people on unemployment in New London County.

And then- after all efforts have been exhausted- I will have to close Beechwood. Not maybe. Not perhaps. I will.

Please pass a budget that will take care of the elderly. Please help nursing homes by appropriately utilizing the Federal economics Stimulus package funds.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Pajor".

Kathleen A. Pajor  
President/Executive Director