



# Comfort Keepers®

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To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Dennis Patouhas, owner of Assisted Living Associates d/b/a Comfort Keepers a provider of non-medical home care to the elderly in lower Fairfield County.

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase our business costs and could force us to reevaluate the other benefits we provide our employees.

At this point in the midst of this most severe of economic crisis, placing this added burden upon employers, whose businesses have already suffered very significant declines and have little prospect of being able to raise prices, this may well be a death knell for many. In our industry, serving the needs of the elderly who have seen their savings plummet and their ability to derive even a meager return on their investments next to impossible, an increase is most difficult.

Particularly in the home care industry, there is a distinct difference in the structures upon which agency services are provided. There are primarily two forms of agencies 1) an employer based agency which employs its' staff and complies with all required filings, taxes and insurance and 2) a registry, which acts as a broker for a fee, placing an independent caregiver with a client in need of service. The advantage with which the registry operates is already placing the employer based agency in a position where they are consistently undercut price wise. While employer based agencies have chosen to take "a high road approach" to employment and services to their elderly clients, the registry model is not even required to perform background investigations of its' staff of independent contractors, because they are not employees. To require the employee based agency to pay this sick leave while its' competition is exempt is to punish that group, furthering the inequity and furthering the competitive disadvantage enjoyed by the registry.

We urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

Dennis Patouhas  
Owner

## Affordable, Non-Medical In-Home Services For The Elderly, New Mothers And Those Recovering From Illness

- Meal Preparation In-Home
- Grocery Shopping
- Laundry & Linen Washing
- Companionship Care
- Transportation Services
- Clothing Shopping
- Light Housekeeping
- 24 Hour Care Available
- Free In-Home Consultations
- Errand Services
- Daily "TLC" Phone Calls
- Recreational Activities