

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
on behalf of the
Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care
before the
Select Committee on Aging
February 16, 2010

Sen. Prague, Rep. Serra and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Systems, Inc. We own and operate several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for 60 years. I am also representing the Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care, a small state association that has affiliated members in this industry.

We support Senate Bill 104, *An Act Establishing a Cause of Action for Nursing Home Facilities Against Recipients of Transfers of Assets*. Thank you very much for raising this bill for a hearing—our industry desperately needs it.

We provide care—good care, 24-hour care—to patients who have applied for Medicaid. Until the patient's application is approved, we are not paid a dime by the Department of Social Services. Sometimes the applications are approved fairly quickly. Other times they are delayed as a possible transfer of assets is investigated. If a transfer has happened, DSS puts the burden on us to seek payment from the entity—typically a family member who received the assets. As we pursue this, we still are paid nothing by DSS for the care we render.

Right now, I am looking at hundreds of thousands of dollars in such receivables. It could be months—or years—before I collect anything. This has a devastating effect on my facility's cash flow and balance sheet.

Senate Bill 104 will make clear that the recipient of the transfer is liable to the long-term care facility for any costs. This is a reasonable step to take.

I might add that Senator Harris took the lead last session in seeing that \$300,000 was added to DSS' budget for the purpose of getting more resources to process Title XIX applications quicker. We desperately need these funds utilized by DSS this year—please add a mandate that this happen to SB 104.

In closing, thank you again for considering this bill. I hope you pass it.