TESTIMONY
of
Giovanni Crudele
Before the Appropriations Committee
of the
Connecticut General Assembly

February 11, 2010

Chairpersons Sen. Toni Harp and Rep. John Geragosian and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee: My name is Rossana Crudele. I am writing to you today in **support** of the **Alzheimer's Respite Care Program and ask you to retain the line item funding for this essential program.**

My father has been living with the disabling decease of Alzheimer for the past five years. Within two years of the onset of this dreadful decease, my father began to need around the clock care. We are keeping my father at home knowing that he will be more comfortable living among objects and people that are familiar to him during his lucid moments. My mother is 80 years old and unable to care for my father. The children do what they can, but time is limited due to work and family obligations.

In order to care for my father, we have asked the help of friends and family members as well as home care services which my parents can ill afford. The numerous difficulties we have encountered have often resulted in discussions about placement for my father, but each time, we have been unable to make that painful decision. We have continued to hire help which is sorely needed due to the severity of my father's condition making great personal sacrifices.

The Alzheimer's Respite Care Program has been very helpful to us. It has allowed my mother and the rest of the family to take a much needed if short break from the heart wrenching and very demanding job of watching my father, especially during the night.

The cost of this program is minimal, compared to the cost of placing my father in a nursing home. As family members continue to function in a normal fashion, going to work, earning wages to support their families, and paying taxes, my father retains the deserved quality of life that being at home affords him. I am certain that you are well aware the financial burden the State of Connecticut would have to undertake if my father were to be placed in a nursing home. The cost of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program for one year is equal to the cost of 10 days in a nursing home.

Don't punish families who are willing to care for their loved ones at home, by cutting the program. We are willing to sacrifice a great deal in order to make sure our moms and dads remain at home. With a LITTLE financial help from the State of Connecticut we will continue to do so, saving the State a great deal of money and ensuring our loved ones a better quality of life.

Please help those of us who take great pride in caring for our parents.

Thank you for the attention granted to my letter and to the reasons I listed in support of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, it is sorely needed.

Sincerely,

Rossana Crudele

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