



**Tower One
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Fostering Independence and Community - It's All Right Here

**Testimony to the Public Health Committee
from Tower One/Tower East on Raised Bill 249 –
An Act Concerning Use of the term “Assisted Living”
March 1, 2010**

The following represents written testimony regarding Raised Bill 249 - An Act Concerning Use of the term “Assisted Living” from Tower One/Tower East.

Tower One/Tower East is a non-profit, HUD subsidized, elderly housing community in New Haven comprised of two buildings which are home to about 375 older adults. Tower One/Tower East provides both independent and Assisted Living. Tower One and Tower East have been designated as Managed Residential Communities (MRC) by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. Our Assisted Living services are provided by a state-licensed Assisted Living Service Agency (ALSA) as mandated by Connecticut's Assisted Living Regulations.

On behalf of current and future Connecticut elders who will want and need the special combination of housing and services that are uniquely provided in assisted living communities, we are urging the Public Health Committee to support Raised Bill 249 for the important disclosure protections this measure will provide to older adults and their families at an often vulnerable and challenging time of their lives.

Before residents come to Tower One/Tower East, or any other assisted living community, they by choice or at times by circumstance are forced to leave their family home as a result of a health or physical condition concern. Often the decision to move to Assisted Living is one that involves coordination of multiple family members sometimes living out of state and can involve more urgent planning than is ideal. In the best interest of an elderly loved one, Raised Bill 249 will allow only licensed Assisted Living providers to use the term “Assisted Living” in their written or verbal communications. That will prevent the inappropriate and sometimes misleading use of the term by those who are not licensed by the State of Connecticut.

A person 80 or 90 years of age, and their family, should not be burdened with the need to compare one provider who purports to offer Assisted Living, but is not licensed, to one who is indeed licensed by the state as an Assisted Living provider. While there is a place in the continuum for different types of providers, the very significant life choice to move to an assisted living community should not be further complicated by confusing and misleading claims by unlicensed providers.

Tower One/Tower East is grateful to the Public Health Committee for introducing Raised Bill 249 for the protection it will provide to consumers at an often difficult time of life.

Thank you for your consideration.