

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, INC.

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Written Testimony of Matthew V. Barrett, Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF) before the Public Health Committee

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and to the members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Matthew Barrett and I am Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's 110 member trade association of proprietary and nonprofit nursing homes. I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify on several bill's on **H. B. No. 5475 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL CARE FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.**

This legislature requires nursing homes to ensure that a resident attending a dental care appointment is safely transported to and from such appointment and receives adequate supervision and assistance for the duration of such appointment.

To the extent that this legislation would required a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) to accompany a resident on any such appointment, our association understands that nursing homes provide this level of supervision, even though there is no add-on reimbursement for this under the Connecticut Medicaid program. We also understand that dentist and physicians are unwilling to schedule these types of appointments unless proper supervision is provided.

Nursing homes make every effort to secure a family member or other responsible party to accompany the resident on such appointments given that providing CNA supervision inevitably would have the effect of diverting scarce staffing resources from the nursing home floor for extended periods of time. However, when this can't be assured, nursing homes must and do provide supervision above their normal staffing patterns.

Finally, a strict requirement that supervision be provided in all instances reasonably should include the opportunity to receive fair and reasonable reimbursement for doing so.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.