

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee

Re: Opposition to SB 249, AAC THE USE OF THE TERM "ASSISTED LIVING

My name is Ted Martland and I am the owner of the The Elton Residential Care Home, an historic building that was renovated with federal tax credits. It is a 96 bed home in the city of Waterbury which offers services to support independence with dignity for older adults.

I am opposed to SB 249 because I believe that it will not allow my home the use of the very generic term "assisted living" in our marketing or communication with the public. In fact, my brochure states "Assisted Living at the Historic Elton".

At the Elton, we offer: 24-hour supervision and security; three nutritious meals, medication supervision, personal care as needed, laundry and housekeeping, assistance with medical appointments and transportation, social services, a pleasant and private furnished room with cable TV, recreational activities, educational programs and special events and other services.

We believe that these are "assisted living" services that help the elderly who cannot live independently in their own homes but require some assistance with their activities of daily living.

The proponents of this bill will state that "assisted living services" are defined in statute. This is true BUT it is only for describing what must be provided within a managed residential community where an Assisted Living Service Agency (ALSA) licensed by the Department of Public Health provides its nursing services and assistance with activities of daily living.

This statute is very specific to the ALSA license and certainly was not meant to imply that no other entity or organization could use the very generic term "assisted living". This statute was specifically enacted for the ALSA license. The Elton never implies that it is licensed as an Assisted Living Service Agency. The Elton is licensed as a Residential Care Home.

However, even within the federal government, the term "assisted living" is very generic. In our audits and other documentation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the tax credits, The Elton must provide information under the category of Nursing Home/Assisted Living. The Elton is certainly not a nursing home because no nursing services are provided under our license as a Residential Care Home in the state of Connecticut.

I urge you not to pass this bill because it would have very negative consequences for the public. The term "assisted living" is very broad and not just confined to a specific statute. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ted Martland

The Elton Residential Care Home