



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

REGARDING H.B. 6486

AN ACT CONCERNING HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT WORKFORCE COUNCIL

March 8, 2011

Members of the Human Services Committee, my name is and I am Deborah Hoyt, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH), whose members serve over 100,000 elderly, disabled and terminally ill Connecticut citizens. We would like to express our concerns around the establishment of the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Workforce Council.

CAHCH believes that the residents of Connecticut deserve to receive quality care in their homes in a manner that ensures safety and proper oversight or supervision. Recognizing that there are multiple levels of non-licensed caregivers, CAHCH has worked collaboratively with state agencies through the Home Health Legislative Work Group (HHLWG), to develop educational tools that provide consumers with information to empower them to make informed decisions when hiring a non-licensed caregiver.

The proposed bill speaks to the establishment of a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Workforce Council for the purpose of collective bargaining. While establishing a statewide registry for PCA referrals may simplify the hiring process for consumers and enhance the staffing of the state waiver programs, Connecticut's home care industry needs to remain the source of quality care provided safely in the patient's home.

In considering the development of such a workforce council, CAHCH encourages proper consumer education and has attached two tools for your reference.