



CONNECTICUT BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2011
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports SB 297 An Act Concerning An Amendment To The Medicaid State Plan Under Section 1915 (i) Of The Social Security Act To Provide Home Care Services

CBIA is encouraged that the bill will expand opportunities for people who want home care and are most appropriately served by those types of services as opposed to institutional care. The Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21st Century exhaustively studied the issue of long term care (see http://ctregionalinstitute.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/findingsppt_full.pdf). It found that most seniors prefer home care but face daunting obstacles in getting those services in lieu of nursing home placement. The bill has DSS establish a “no wrong door single entry point system” recommended by the study.

We agree it is long overdue that the state listen to clients' wishes and change the way it does business. In addition, we face a budget crisis and demographic changes ensuring many new clients in need of long term care over the next several decades. Implementation of the waiver will allow for appropriate cost effective services that will meet client need and demand. We urge the committee to approve the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.