

March 14, 2011

Dear Senator Anthony Musto, Peter Tercyak and members of the Human Service Committee.

We oppose S.B.1013, Section 9 continuing the cap on our rates until June 30, 2013 due to the fact that as smaller facilities we do not have the financial means

I am Sonja Zandri the owner of Brookside Rest Home in Danbury a 20 bed home for the past 36 years. Heidi my daughter runs the everyday operation now.

Brookside has served the greater Danbury area since the 1930

We used to have 5 homes in Danbury all but one (me) closed including 3 in our neighboring Towns.

When I started we had 136 homes in CT now we have 101. Only 2 new homes opened and one came back after closing.

We give great service for the elderly, mentally ill and handicapped who do not need a Nursing Home.

We give, 3 home cooked meals, Laundry, housekeeping, assisting with bathing, medication and transportation with a companion to doctors appointment and shopping, all this for \$70.69 a day or \$2041.94 a month, in the most expensive area(Fairfield County) in CT and the nation.

Food has gone up, worker comp. & health ins. Increased, utility cost has gone up.

My staff has had no increase for 3 years because we have been frozen for the past 2 years and now I have to tell them it will be another two years, their cost has gone up.

The state put in place a reimbursement system and now you change the rule. No other business can just say sorry I have no more money so I am paying you no more. I cannot go to my suppliers and say the same.

I know we all have to share in the cut back but we already have for two years.

I am predicting several Homes will close if you do so.

Thank you,

Sonja Zandri 203-740-0488

Owner of Brookside Home

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