



CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY CARE, INC

*Caring From
Every Perspective*

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**Public Health Committee
In support of H.B. No. 6546
An Act Concerning Revision to Home Health Care Statutes**

**Public Hearing
March 11, 2011**

**Submitted By: Sherry Ostrout
Director, Government Initiatives
Connecticut Community Care, Inc.**

SENATOR SERRATANA, REPRESENTATIVE RITTER, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Sherry Ostrout and I am the Director of Government Initiatives at Connecticut Community Care (CCCI). CCCI is the access agency in the north central, eastern and western regions of the state. We provide care management and coordination for participants on the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, the Connecticut Home Care Program for Disabled Adults and Money Follows the Person. Today, in those programs, we have an active caseload of over 9000 older adults and people with disabilities.

I am pleased to support H.B. 6546 An Act Concerning Revision to Home Health Care Statutes. This bill is a direct outcome from the tremendous collaboration and hard work of the Home Health Legislative Workgroup – DPH, DSS, Access Agencies, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Commission on Aging, and direct service home care providers both at the table and through the Connecticut Association of Home Care.

This workgroup is a stellar example of productive collaboration working towards smart solutions.

Our work isn't done yet, but this bill is a great step forward.

The revisions proposed in Section 1 removes a common barrier for consumers who employ their own staff – that is – self-direct or hire personal care assistants through the waiver programs or private pay. Today, it is very common for home health agency nurses to provide training to a family member but there are liability concerns about training a paid caregiver if they are not under the supervision of a

home health agency. It is understandable. This revision makes it easier for nurses to engage in this training.

In Section 5, conducting a feasibility study on the Universal Abuse Registry is well worth running up the flag pole. Currently, the protections, reporting and maintenance of data varies across departments, diagnosis, age and program. Researching national best practices, analyzing Connecticut's system and developing recommendations for a Universal registry – the potential for significant efficiencies and enhanced protections for consumers is worth a targeted look.

I'm looking forward to continue working with this legislative workgroup and urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.