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The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging

Testimony to the Public Health Committee

Regarding

House Bill 6618, An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes

Submitted by Mag Morelli, CANPFA President

March 23, 2011

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the President of the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging (CANPFA), an association representing over 130 not-for-profit and mission-driven providers of aging services including nursing homes, residential care homes, housing for the elderly, continuing care retirement communities, adult day centers, home care and assisted living agencies. CANPFA members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and governmental organizations that are committed to providing quality care and services to their residents and clients. On behalf of CANPFA, I would like to submit the following testimony regarding **House Bill 6618, An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Public Health Related Statutes**

CANPFA would like to propose a list of suggested revisions and updates to the Public Health Code as it relates to residential care homes. We submit these revisions as a means of potential cost savings for the residential care homes without the risk of compromising resident care. CANPFA worked with the Department of Public Health who reviewed and approved our requested changes as we did last year when we worked with both the Department and this Committee to pass Public Health Code revisions related to nursing homes.

Public Health Code, Chapter VI, Section 19-13-D6. Homes for the aged and rest homes (pages 44-64)

Public Health Code - The following is a suggested list of public health code regulations that could be revised or updated to save costs without compromising resident care:

Physical Plant Suggested Changes

Proposal to allow the sharing of dining and recreation areas when a residential care home is part of a continuum (page 47, G.):

Suggested language: A residential care home *that is collocated* with a chronic and convalescent nursing home, rest home with nursing supervision, managed residential community, continuing care facility or senior housing may meet the requirements of section 19-13-D6 of the Connecticut Public Health Code through *use of shared dining and recreation rooms* with such collocated facility.

Proposal to reduce the Minimum Temperature from 75 degrees F to 71 degrees F (Page 51):

This would bring the residential care homes in line with the skilled nursing facilities which had their minimum temperature requirement modified to 71 degrees F last session to align with the federal standards.

Suggested language: A residential care home shall maintain all occupied areas at the *minimum temperature of seventy-one degrees Fahrenheit* (71 degrees F).

Administration Suggested Change

Proposal to remove the unnecessary personal mental and physical recertification by a physician of the residential care home licensee (Page 55):

Suggested language: The provisions of section 19-13-D6(c)(3) of the Connecticut Public Health Code requiring that the licensee of a residential care home supply a certificate of physical and mental health signed by a physician with each initial and subsequent application *is repealed*.

Dietary Service Suggested Change

Substitute language to replace the unnecessary paperwork approval of meal and snack schedules with a standard maximum time span between meals similar to the provisions adopted last session for the skilled nursing facilities (Page 56):

Suggested language: The provisions of section 19-13-D6(f)(3) of the Connecticut Public Health Code requiring Department of Public Health approval of the time scheduling of regular meals and snacks in residential care homes is repealed. There shall be a maximum time span of 14 hours between the evening meal and breakfast unless a substantial bedtime nourishment is offered.

Evening Attendants Suggested Change

Proposal to permit a residential care home that is part of a continuum to request permission to share attendant personnel during the evening hours (page 57):

Suggested language: A residential care home *that is collocated* with a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision may seek permission from the Department of Public Health to meet the requirements of section 19-13-D6(j) of the Connecticut Public Health Code *with respect to attendants in residence from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. through use of shared personnel*.

Conforming Revisions to Public Health Code

The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to amend section 19-13-D6 of the Connecticut Public Health Code to conform with the provisions of this Act

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I would be happy to discuss these proposed changes or any other questions or concerns.

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