

Testimony in opposition to:

S.B. No. 970 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS.

The Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's 115-member association of for profit and not-for-profit nursing homes is opposed to S.B. 970 6372, which would (1) Require health care employers, including nursing homes, to develop and implement plans and training programs related to workplace violence prevention and response, (2) require health care employers to report on incidents of workplace violence to the local law enforcement agencies and the Department of Public Health, (3) establish criminal penalties for assault of a health care employee, and (4) require the Department of Public Health to report to the General Assembly and the public at large on incidents of workplace violence.

While our association appreciates the safety concerns underlying the legislation, the legislation goes too far in relieving a nursing home caregiver's duty and responsibility to provide care, albeit under sometimes difficult circumstances. The regrettable result will be that care will be withheld and a nursing home resident will be underserved. In addition, the S.B. 970 requires an inefficient use of scarce nursing home resources because it duplicates a range of existing nursing home reporting requirements to the Department of Public Health and to local police departments. Existing public health requirements mandate nursing home safety committees in all facilities and reporting for similar reasons as presented in S.B 970 already.

For these reasons, we are opposed to S.B. 970.

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