

C4A Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Committee on Aging
2/28/12 Public Hearing

Please SUPPORT Senate Bill 142 – An Act Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly

- Many Connecticut residents fear asset depletion whereby the dignity, security and independence they worked a lifetime to attain will dissipate. Some avoid using limited assets to obtain much needed long term care, which jeopardizes safety and quality of life and often incurs more expensive interventions including institutional care.
- As is proposed in SB 142, increasing the asset limits from \$34,092 to \$50,000 for a single person and from \$45,456 to \$75,000 for couples will encourage participation in the CT Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE).
- Participation in the CHCPE may help older adults forego premature institutional care, which is more costly to the State and less desirable for older adults.
- Considering Connecticut's high housing and energy costs, coupled with the supplemental insurance and health care deductibles, many residents will consider the proposed \$50,000/\$75,000 asset limits necessary in maintaining a reasonable financial safety net.
- Expense incurred on behalf of residents for services provided through the CHCPE are subject to recoupment from the individual's estate. The State may recover some portion of this long term care expense.
- In the CHCPE Annual Report to the Legislature for SFY 2007, the Department of Social Services documented cost savings to the State in that program year of \$91,510,543. Breaking out this figure, average CHCPE monthly costs per client in 2007 were as follows: Waiver clients: \$1,572; State-funded clients: \$909. By contrast, the average monthly Medicaid nursing home cost of care in 2007 was \$5,338 (and the current cost of nursing home care is significantly higher). State support has ensured that eligible individuals can access the CHCPE on a rolling basis and that there is no wait list.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF SB 142. Please contact Attorney Bobby Shea with any follow-up questions or comments: 860-989-5567.