



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE AGING COMMITTEE
REGARDING RAISED BILL 138
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY “AGING IN PLACE”

February 28, 2012

Senator Prague, Senator Serra and members of the Aging Committee, my name is Deborah Hoyt and I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice (CAHCH). Our member agencies employ over 10,755 home health and hospice workers in Connecticut and perform nearly 5-million home health visits each year. Our trained nurses and aides enable chronically ill and disabled individuals to receive cost-effective healthcare in the comfort of their own homes – the setting that they, and their family members, prefer most.

CAHCH **fully supports** Raised Bill 138 establishing a task force to study how the state can encourage “aging in place.” Further, as Connecticut’s united voice for home care and hospice and recognized experts in chronic care management, CAHCH would welcome the opportunity for one of our home health agency leaders to serve as an appointee to this Task Force.

Our interests are two-fold—to assist the Committee in developing a comprehensive plan which will foster a change in Connecticut’s culture toward aging in place; and to ensure that Connecticut citizens receive safe and appropriate home health services within an infrastructure equipped to meet the demands of a growing aging demographic.

CAHCH supports the state’s long term care goal of rebalancing and aging in place. According to a 2010 study by the University of Connecticut, investing in a system that supports the delivery of home health care will ensure Connecticut’s fiscal health as well as the overall sustainability of the safety net.

Thank you for consideration this testimony and CAHCH’s request for an appointment to this task force. Please feel free to contact me anytime at hoyt@cahch.org or 203-294-7349.