SENIOR CARE®

To the Appropriations Committee

Testimony of Patricia Rockwell, Administrator, Senior Care of Middlebury

February 17, 2012

Good evening. My name is Patricia Rockwell and I am the Administrator of Senior Care of Middlebury Adult Day Care. I am here to speak on behalf of Connecticut's 45 Adult Day Health Centers and as a caregiver.

I thank you for your past and continued support of Adult day Centers and for the interest you have taken in touring and learning about the services we provide.

In the past, center representatives have presented a detailed list of the numerous health and social services our centers provide and their cost effectiveness.

We will continue to promote Adult Day as a community based service providing assistance with activities of daily living, special therapeutic recreational programs, nutrition, transportation, as well as comprehensive health services.

We will continue to speak about the cost of care at $84 a day and the state reimbursement rate for a CT homecare client of $70.22/day. This is a loss of $13.78 per day per CT homecare client.

We will continue to emphasize the increasing costs for transportation; fuel and insurance prices have risen considerably and continue to rise. The state requires that we provide transportation with the cost included in our daily rate. We calculate 2 way transport to cost $24 per day per client. This amount deducted from the current reimbursement rate of $70.22 per client per day leaves $46.22 per day to provide nursing services, assistance with bathing, toileting, and ambulation, and at a minimum 2 snacks and 1 meal.

Also, many of our centers are transporting from farther regions due to the closing of 19 centers over the past eight years.

We will continue to speak about the frailty and the increased needs of the clients that we serve; many of whom would require nursing facility placement or assisted living if it were not for the care and supervision provided by our centers.

The Money Follows the Person expansion will combine cost-effectiveness with improved life quality for those who can return to the community with supportive services. However, due to the low reimbursement rate, there are limited community based service providers.

I can tell you that we have had a few MFP clients and they have multiple medical and social needs, as well as a huge adjustment in their return to the community. We have the desire, the potential and the dedication to provide services, but we need an increase in the state rate that more closely represents our actual operating costs.

It is a well known fact that centers save Connecticut significant long term care dollars, and are a very cost-effective option for remaining in the community.

Again I would like to Thank You for your past support and I am asking to
Please remember Adult Day Care as an essential community part of the Long Term
Care planning.

I would be pleased to answer any questions. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

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