

Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
on behalf of the
Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care
before the
Appropriations Committee
February 17, 2012

Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Management that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for 62 years. I am also representing the Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care, a small state association that has affiliated members in this industry.

I would like to offer brief comments on budget adjustments proposals that are before you tonight for the upcoming fiscal year.

I would request that you advance legislation that give long-term care facilities better tools to try and recover funds that have been transferred to a family member or other person by the patient. These transfers take place as a way of depleting the patient's assets so that they can have Medicaid pay for their care. If transfers are deemed to have occurred, our facility then needs to try and recover the funds. Title XIX, meanwhile, will not pay for care that we render until such time as we absorb the value of the amount transferred. This can be hundreds of thousands of dollars in care—meanwhile, we don't see a penny from the state. It might also make sense to give additional authority to the attorney General in this regard to go after suspect transfers.

We would also request that you take action to create a payment structure that gives some reimbursement to LTC facilities for the costs we have in taking care of patients who have a Medicaid application under review. These "pending" cases mean that we do not see any state reimbursement. Clearly, some portion of the costs could be paid by the state while the application is processed. The other option is to have the state complete the application reviews quicker and pay us sooner than they now do. Regardless of the approach, we support the idea that some kind of advance payment structure be created for LTC facilities involving Medicaid.

We also support the use of "fair rent" payments to reimburse LTC facilities for their capital improvements, implementation of the "med tech" proposal as well as efforts to maximize federal revenues. If you take the steps I have outlined here, you will play a big role in improving the ability of facilities to provide the very best care possible to our patients. Thank you.