

Ann Marie Mangiagli

Resident of Wethersfield, CT

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Good afternoon, members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in support of the bill to require more transparency about nursing home finances.

My name is Ann Marie Mangiagli, and I live in Wethersfield, Connecticut. You may have read about my story in the Hartford Courant last week.

My daughter, Laura, has been living in the Wethersfield Health Care Center for three-and-a-half years. She moved there after I took care of her in my home for two years. She's only 58, but she has an autoimmune disease that has damaged her both mentally and physically and she requires constant care.

Wethersfield Health Care Center is the only nursing home in my town. So you can just imagine how upset I was when I heard last fall that the company that operates it was asking the state for permission to close it down. That's her home we're talking about and I didn't want to have to move her again after all we went through before.

And you can imagine how relieved I was last week when I found out that the state rejected the application to close Wethersfield and that for now, at least, my daughter's home is safe and I can visit her easily there.

The state did the right thing in saying no to HealthBridge, the operating company. I understand that one reason they said no is because

Testimony supporting Raised House Bill 5451: An Act Concerning Transparency in Nursing Home Cost Reports

HealthBridge wouldn't give them the financial information about their other related businesses.

That's why I'm here today to support this bill. No other mother, no other family, should have to go through what we've gone through these past six months, waiting and wondering what will happen to my daughter. If a for-profit company like HealthBridge wants to collect millions of Medicaid dollars from the state, they should have to be open and transparent and honest about their other businesses, and how those businesses are doing before they can do something so hurtful and traumatic as evicting my daughter and the rest of the residents of Wethersfield and forcing them to leave their home, their community, their family and their friends.

I don't know what's going to happen next and if Wethersfield will remain open in the long run. How dare they not make their books visible to the state – if it was the other way around, you can be sure they would insist on seeing everything.

Please help protect people like my daughter and make sure that our tax dollars are spent wisely. Please support this Bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.