

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, INC.

Written Testimony of Matthew V. Barrett, Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF) before the Judiciary Committee - March 29, 2012 in Opposition to S.B. No. 452 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES.

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's one hundred and forty-nine member trade association of post-acute, transitional and long term care nursing homes, in opposition to S.B. No. 452 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES.

This legislation will wrongly have the effect of holding skilled nursing facilities to standards that today apply to a licenced facility for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities. At its base, the notion that skilled nursing homes should be categorized in this light is incorrect. While some nursing home residents may suffer from psychiatric conditions, this alone should not lead to the assumption that nursing homes should be regulated under the same scheme as a facility for the treatment of persons with psychiatric disabilities. Moreover, there are very strict federal rules which jeopardize federal Medicaid reimbursement to the State of Connecticut to assure that skilled nursing homes are not implicated as psychiatric facilities.

Further, all nursing home residents, including those with psychiatric conditions, have very comprehensive resident rights and protections under state law (CGS 19a-550) as well as federal law.

For these reasons, we urge no action on S.B. No. 452.

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