



March 14, 2012

Dear Senator/Representative,

The Connecticut Association for Home Care and Hospice (CAHCH) along with 27 of the 28 hospice agency provider members in Connecticut are reaching out to you as well as every state legislator and member of the Administration. We collectively **urge you to support** the Hospice Facility Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14 created by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in collaboration with CAHCH and many of the state hospice providers.

These regulations will open up access to all levels of hospice care but specifically allow for hospice facilities or residences. The current regulations (19-13-D4b) are for hospital based hospices only. They do not support the small home-like hospice facility or residence, a model that is prevalent throughout the United States. Of the 5150 hospice providers nationally, 21.7% have hospice facilities or residences (just over one in five)-*source: The 2010 Medicare Facts and Figures report*. In Connecticut, there are only two (6.7%) facilities but they are licensed under CT regulations 19-13-D4b (Short-term hospitals, special, hospice) written 35 years ago for CT Hospice to be provided in the hospital setting.

These regulations are sorely needed and will provide opportunities for licensed hospice providers throughout the state to offer terminally-ill patients access to all levels of hospice services both in home and in facilities within their own communities. They will allow for small hospice residences (usually 12 or fewer beds) to be built in areas around the state where accessibility to all levels of hospice care is currently a problem (Greater Danbury, Southeastern CT and Fairfield County to name a few). These hospice residences will be close to home and convenient to friends and family with less worry about travelling distances/hours to visit. They will also offer enhanced hospice care provided by hospice designated and trained staff in a home-like setting (not a nursing home or a hospital). Overall, they will ensure greater patient and family satisfaction at end-of-life.

In summary, CAHCH and 28 of its 29 hospice providers **support** these proposed revisions to the Hospice Facility Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14. We **strongly urge you to support** them as well recognizing that quality of end-of-life care and services will be greatly enhanced through greater access and ability to provide hospice services to clients and their families throughout Connecticut in all care settings. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important hospice issue.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Buongiovanni RN