



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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MEMBER  
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony before the Public Health Committee  
Friday, March 16, 2012

Re: HB 5499- An Act Concerning Regulations Relation to Hospice Care

I would like to thank the Honorable Co-Chairs Senator Terry Gerratana and Representative Elizabeth Ritter, the Honorable Vice-Chairs Senator Gayle Slossberg and Representative Christopher Lyddy, and the Ranking Members Senator Jason Welch and Representative Jason Perillo, and the entire membership of the Public Health Committee for their time this afternoon in addressing this important issue.

Although I cannot be present, I would like to lend my full support to HB 5499 An Act Concerning Regulations Relation to Hospice Care, and more specifically to the Hospice Facility Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14. The current regulations (19-13-D46) allow access for hospital based hospices only. These regulations do not support small home-like hospice facilities which are prevalent throughout the United States. These regulations need to be updated to keep Connecticut comparable with other states in the country. I would, however like to suggest a revision be made to Section (a) after "pursuant to 42 USC 1395x" in line 6 and have it read **shall be authorized to operate a hospice facility, including a hospice residence, for the purpose of providing hospice services for terminally ill patients who are in need of hospice home care or hospice inpatient services. The hospice facility including a hospice residence, must be able to provide the following levels of hospice care: routine, general inpatient, and continuous respite.**

With these new regulations, terminally ill patients will have access to all levels of hospice services both in hospitals as well as within their own communities. It will also allow for small hospice residences to be built within towns across the state where accessibility to care is difficult to obtain. In Danbury, where access to care is particularly a problem, CT Association for Home Care and Hospice is willing and ready to break ground on a community facility. It will offer close to home care which benefits not only the economy in Danbury but also improve the quality patient and family satisfaction.

In summary, I urge the members of the Public Health facility to support HB 5499 and the proposed revisions to the current regulations. These new regulations will only work to enhance the care and respect that Connecticut's system provides for so many.

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Giegler  
State Representative