

Testimony of

Hospice Southeastern Connecticut

Before the Legislature's Public Health Committee

10:00 AM, Friday March 16, 2012

Room 1D, Legislative Office Building Hartford, Connecticut

My name is Jennifer H. Christopher, RN, BSN. I am in support of Services for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. **I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 (Raised) An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care .**

As a Registered Nurse, I ask that support be considered for proposed **HB 5499**, section 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14, in support of live-in Hospice Residence Facilities. There are several reasons for support, including but not limited to patient dignity and respect for the dying and their families at a time when privacy and respect are most important.

The Connecticut Hospice in Branford, CT is the only real live-in hospice facility in this state. Privacy of patients and families and their loved ones would be considered a luxury. Patients do not have privacy as there are up to four patients per room. One could try to spend quality time with a loved one. Sadly, there are no other options in the state of Connecticut for dying with dignity and privacy in a live-in facility.

The zeitgeist calls for a change to focus on patient-centered care. The majority of the hospice agencies in the State of Connecticut are asking for legislation to offer privacy while receiving care in a live-in facility. Having more than one live-in facility for end-of-life care gives families a choice for care during one of the most difficult times for families.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and I hope that the elected representatives of the State of Connecticut will see the benefit of support of HB5499.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 860.848.5699 or [jchristopher@hospicesect.org](mailto:jchristopher@hospicesect.org)