



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony

In Support of Raised House Bill 5499

AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS RELATING TO HOSPICE CARE

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2012

Honorable Chairs, Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter, Honorable Vice-Chairs, Senator Slossberg and Representative Lyddy, Ranking Members Senator Welch and Representative Perillo, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Raised Bill No. 5499, AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS RELATING TO HOSPICE CARE.

I fully support Raised Bill 5499 to put into statute the correct and necessary regulations authorizing hospice home care services for terminally ill persons to operate as a residence versus a nursing home type facility. Families of loved ones in the last days of their lives are not always able to provide aid and services during these trying times, and hospice affords them a peaceful and comforting place where they can spend quality and meaningful time as family. A grave injustice is done when comparing a hospice residence to a nursing home. As much as a nursing home can give proper care and attention to its residents, its purpose is to care for a wide range of needs from rehabilitation for patients who are admitted on a temporary basis to assisting with activities of daily living patients who are there permanently. Respectfully, serving in this capacity, a nursing home

legitimately presents an institutional-like environment, not the home away from home atmosphere a hospice residence offers.

Every person deserves to live his or her last days at home and circumstances may prevent this. Having a near-by residence that provides an atmosphere that emulates home will allow a person's time of passing to be a private and personal one and the family to spend these last moments with their loved one in peace and dignity. Raised Bill 5499 makes it possible, and I urge you to pass this bill in committee.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Molgano". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael L. Molgano
State Representative, District 144
Stamford