

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, INC.

March 22, 2012

Written Testimony of Matthew V. Barrett, Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF) before the Public Health Committee in Support of H.B. No. 5516 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and to the members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Matthew Barrett and I am Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's one hundred and forty-nine member trade association of skilled nursing facilities. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of H.B. No. 5516 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN NURSING HOME FACILITIES.

This is important legislation that will assist nursing homes better manage their prescription costs in situations where nursing home residents have transitioned from a hospital setting. Measures to lower costs are particularly important in the current fiscal environment at both the state and federal levels of government, where regrettably Medicare reductions as high as sixteen percent have been experienced by Connecticut nursing homes, while Medicaid continues to pay below facility costs.

The provisions in the bill allowing prescribing practitioners to authorize cost effective prescription substitutions without compromising the quality of care that is provided is the very type of help that nursing homes need in today's challenging environment. For these reasons, we urge the committee to adopt the bill.

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