

## Bonhomme, Penny

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**From:** SONJA ZANDRI [carch4676@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2012 8:25 PM  
**To:** PHC Testimony  
**Subject:** HB 5322

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### Testimony in **Opposition** to **HB 5322 AN ACT CONCERNING PRESSURE REDISTRIBUTION MATTRESS**

Senator Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Sonja Zandri and I have been the owner of Brookside Home for the past 37 years, as well as a past president of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes (CARCH). Brookside has been in business about 75 years serving the greater Danbury area. Of the five residential care homes that existed when I took over Brookside, I am the only remaining home in the area.

I am offering testimony in opposition to HB 5322 which would require all residential care homes to replace all mattresses with pressure-redistribution mattresses before October 1, 2015. We ask that residential care homes be removed from this proposed legislation.

Residential care homes are not health care facilities. This is quite apparent in our homes as residents do not spend their day in bed 24/7. Instead they go out and move around. In fact, any need for these mattresses does not warrant the cost. The mattresses would require excessive spending that the industry cannot afford. For instance a pressure-redistribution mattress starts at \$650. This is compared to the \$200 I have paid to replace mattresses recently.

Residential care home rates have been frozen for over three years. To make us purchases such an expensive and unnecessary item just does not make sense. This would also require us to put all of these mattresses in the land fill at the cost of \$20 per mattress. This may seem like a small cost but in addition to the expense of replacing all the mattresses at three times the normal cost could cost homes like my own several thousand dollars.

If someone in my home needs a pressure redistribution mattress, the Doctor could order it and Medicare would cover it with no cost to the home. To force everyone to have the same mattress does not make sense. We are not a medical facility but a home. We have some resident that like hard or soft mattresses and we try to get it for them. In fact, some residents have lived with us for over 30 years without a problem.

I hope that you remove residential care homes from HB 5322.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sonja Zandri  
Brookside Home