



TESTIMONY OF THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF ADULT DAY CENTERS

**TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGING
IN SUPPORT OF**

Senate Bill 142 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

Senate Bill 143 AN ACT INCREASING ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

Submitted

February 28, 2012

The Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers, an organization of 47 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut, respectfully submits the following testimony in support of **Senate Bill 142, An Act Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home-care Program for the Elderly** and **Senate Bill 143, An Act Increasing Eligibility and Funding for the Alzheimer's Respite**.

We ask for your support of the Alzheimer's Respite Care Grant Program and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders. The Alzheimer's Respite and Connecticut Home Care Programs are the funding lifelines of our most needy clients and caregivers. While we understand the challenge the Connecticut legislature faces to fairly fund so many vital services and programs, we firmly believe adult day centers and other community based services funded by these programs save Connecticut significant long-term care dollars by meeting the growing needs of Connecticut's elderly and their caregivers in the community and preventing unnecessary and premature placements in skilled nursing facilities. It is estimated by the Department of Social Services that the Home Care Program for Elders alone saved over \$100 million in 2010 as a result of the reduced utilization of nursing facility beds.

We know from experience that recent freezes and cost-sharing under these essential funding programs have pushed many clients and their caregivers to eliminate services, created waiting lists and forced many to apply for Medicaid eligibility to receive these necessary respite care services. We have witnessed many of our clients and their caregivers withdraw from adult day services when their grant funding runs out only to hasten their move to more expensive nursing home care. We encourage you to avoid these unintended outcomes as we move forward and to support increasing the capacity of these important funding sources for community based services.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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