Statement of Martin Sbriglio
before the
Human Services Committee
March 1, 2012
Senate Bill 233 and HB 5283

Sen. Musto, Rep. Tercyak and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Systems, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for over 62 years. I am also representing the Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care, a small state association that has affiliated members in this industry.

Ironically, I want to note that I appeared before this very committee exactly one year ago at your public hearing on March 1, 2011. I asked you then to help our industry on the issue of reimbursing for the so-called "pending" cases in Medicaid. These are the cases where we provide care to an indigent resident while their application is being processed for Medicaid. Until an approval occurs, we do not see a dime from the state.

Little happened on this issue last session. Maybe 2012 will be different.

I would like to offer brief comments on Senate Bill 233 and House Bill 5283. Both proposals are a step in the right direction.

SB 233 would permit DSS to pay a portion of the costs of care when an application for Medicaid is pending. We need this—I can tell you case after case where we have incurred hundreds of thousands of dollars in care but have yet to see any reimbursement from the state. This just is not fair.

HB 5283 will go in the same direction for long-term care facilities that are in deep financial trouble—brought on ironically in some instances because of the delays in reimbursing them by the state. The bill allows these facilities more latitude in paying back the "advanced payments" that are made by DSS.

I would urge you to support the approach embodied in these two bills. If you do so, it will get us reimbursements we are entitled to. That, in turn, will better enable us to concentrate on our core mission of providing consistent, high-quality care to our residents Thank you.