

TESTIMONY OF KEVIN DONAHUE, OWNER OF DANBURY NURSES REGISTRY  
IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 518

My name is Kevin Donohue I live in Newtown CT. I own the Danbury Nurses Registry and also am a founding member of the CT Association of Home Care Registries as well as a member of the Private Care Association, a national association of home care registries. Both organizations are committed to maintaining quality standards in the registry segment of the homecare industry and promote cooperation and provide education to lawmakers at the State and Federal levels.

I am here to support SB 518 “an act creating a task force to study employment issues concerning registries in the homemaker companion industry.”

As proposed the Bill provides a balanced forum for lawmakers and commissioners to have open and direct communication with those businesses operating as registries in the homemaker companion industry.

We would like to provide answers to questions and concerns that you may have as well as provide examples from what other states have concluded under similar circumstances. We would like to ensure the task force has a full understanding of the benefits and challenges of this model.

Danbury Nurses Registry has been providing pre-screened caregivers to the community since 1930. For the past 83 years the registry has developed and maintained an excellent working relationship with many institutions and homecare professionals. We work closely with the VNA's, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living centers. My Mom was a nurse on the registry since 1976 and subsequently bought the registry in 1982. I bought the registry in 2006 after 10 years under her guidance.

Since its inception in 1930, Danbury Nurses Registry has provided living wage work opportunities to 10s of thousands of caregivers who provided 10s of thousands of families with care and peace of mind. The independent contractor status of these caregivers allows for a savings to the families of at least 25% and enables the caregivers to retain a much greater portion of the remuneration when compared to employee based agencies. This cost effective model also has already had a major benefit to the State of CT because it allows families to afford care privately. Extending the private family pay by 25% curbs or delays the necessity of invoking title 19 benefits and in some cases may divert them entirely thereby ensuring those resources are used by those who truly need it.

While things have changed much in the past 8 decades we believe this model is so valuable and cost effective that it needs to be an ongoing option for consumers and caregivers. We believe there are ways to further protect consumers and maintain caregivers' freedom to work as independent contractors without eliminating the registry model. Without this substantial value to consumers and caregivers our business model would not exist today and I would most likely not be here addressing this distinguished committee.