



NPDA

NATIONAL PRIVATE DUTY ASSOCIATION

The World of Private Duty Home Care

Connecticut Chapter

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Testimony on Bill 518

February 5, 2013

My name is Rennard Wieland. I am here to testify on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the Home Care Association of America – HAOA (formerly known as the National Private Duty Association). The Home Care Association of America enhances the strength and professionalism of private duty home care providers through education and best practices and represents hundreds of employment-based home care agencies.

I have been in the Home Care Industry for the past 33 years. For twenty of those years I was the Executive Director of a Medicare Certified Agency and for the last 13 years I have owned an employment based agency registered with the Department of Consumer Protection.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed Bill 518 which, in my opinion, unnecessarily seeks another review of whether individuals working for “registries” or “placement agencies” should be regarded as “employees” or as “independent contractors”.

I firmly believe that all workers should be covered by Workers Compensation and Unemployment insurances for their safety and peace of mind.

Evidence can be found in rulings that have found caregivers to be employees of registries, for example;

The access agencies for the CT Home Care Program for Elders, which is partially funded by the state, requires these insurances for all homemakers and companions providing service to their clients regardless of whether they are from a registry or an employment based agency.

Further, the Ct Dept of Labor plans to reintroduce a bill from last year that essentially defines registries as employers.

Lastly, I have interviewed many homecare workers seeking employment with my agency who have worked for registries. These workers were completely unaware that they were not covered by unemployment or workers compensation insurance at those registries. This fact alone should support the need to end this worker misclassification.

While I appreciate the intent of the bill, what truly needs to be done is not so much to study the issue but, instead, to eradicate misclassification of workers in the State of Connecticut.