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**House Bill 6461**  
**Aging Committee**  
**Public Hearing: 2/26/13**

***House Bill 6461 – An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program***

The Connecticut Bar Association Elder Law Section respectfully urges the members of the Aging Committee to SUPPORT House Bill 6461.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE) provides invaluable programs and services which allow many of Connecticut's Older Adults to live at home and in their communities.

Currently, many applicants for CHCPE services must wait in excess of 6 months to be approved. This long waiting period often forces some older adults – who otherwise would like to live at home or in their communities with appropriate CHCPE supports and services – to have no other alternative than to obtain services in much more expensive settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes.

Subsection 1(e) of House Bill 6461 proposes a very comprehensive and well-reasoned approach to allow CHCPE applicants to be considered “presumptively eligible” for services. If the designated access agency makes a determination that the applicant is functionally able to live at home or in the community and is likely to be eligible for Medicaid coverage, then in some cases the CHCPE services can be initiated as soon as 5 days after the determination. This will be a tremendously helpful process for many of Connecticut's older adults.

The CBA Elder Law section applauds the proponents of this legislation, and we look forward to working with members of the Aging Committee to help get House Bill 6461 enacted into law.