

TESTIMONY OF  
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents about 10,000 firms, which employ about 700,000 women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports HB 5919 An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Home Care and HB 1022 An Act Concerning Providing Incentives to Meet Long Term Care Goals.

CBIA strongly supports the underlying premise of HB 5919 in our report “Turning the Tide” [http://gov.cbia.com/issues\\_policies/article/turning-the-tide-on-connecticuts-fiscal-policies](http://gov.cbia.com/issues_policies/article/turning-the-tide-on-connecticuts-fiscal-policies) . We note that study by UCONN has confirmed that elderly clients prefer home care whenever possible. The Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century exhaustively studied the issue of long term care (see [http://ctregionalinstitute.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/findingsppt\\_full.pdf](http://ctregionalinstitute.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/findingsppt_full.pdf) ). It found that most seniors prefer home care but face daunting obstacles in getting those services in lieu of nursing home placement. We note that other studies done by AARP, and Mercer also show the need and desirability for the state to proceed towards its own stated goal of 75% home care vs. 25% nursing home care with all deliberate speed. We feel that this goal has not received comprehensive and accelerated attention by the state. We have heard from others

that implementation is really fast yet our own observation says it's rather slow and needs a real solid goal to be stated by the general assembly for the state to obtain. That is why we welcome and support this bill. We are sure you will hear debate on cost savings that may result from this bill, but I feel certain that implementation will show some savings versus continuing to do things as we have always done them.

CBIA believes that HB 1022 provides a useful transitional effort to stabilize the long term care system while making substantial and rapid change. Coupled with HB5919 it is a useful bill.

These bills should both save taxpayers money AND provide more appropriate and desired care to more needy clients. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.