



March 13, 2013
Judiciary Committee
Please Support Raised Bill 1060

My name is Jean Rexford and I am the Executive Director of the CT Center for Patient Safety. I am here in support of **RAISED BILL 1060 -- AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE BY NURSING HOMES, HOME HEALTH CARE AGENCIES AND HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE AGENCIES.**

This bill simply requires Connecticut Nursing Homes and Home Healthcare Agencies to carry liability insurance.

In January of 2012, the Office of Inspector General reported that their completed study showed that 130,000 Medicare beneficiaries experienced an adverse event each month in our nation's hospitals. I cannot even imagine what the same study would show in our nursing homes. And as a state we are trying to move patients from nursing homes to their own homes. We need to assure that these agencies – the home health agencies – have regulatory oversight and can be held accountable.

Nursing homes and home health agencies must be held liable for serious preventable adverse events.

The Department of Public Health fines are just the cost of doing business. Our families need protection. In this written testimony I have included all of the fines I could find for 2010.

The DPH simply does not have adequate staff to monitor this vulnerable population. And clearly the fines are just the cost of doing business.

In 2010 the following nursing homes were fined:

Cobalt Lodge Health Care and Rehab	\$510
Meriden Center	\$615
St. Joseph's Manor	\$605
Apple Rehab	\$510
Sister Anne Virginie Grimes Health Center	\$580
Bishop's Corner Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation	\$3,000
Bickford HealthCare Center	\$510
Village Manor	\$500

Edgehill Health Center	\$500
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Edgehill Health Center	\$500
Apple Rehab Middletown	\$580
The Kent	\$615
Hilltop Health Center	\$510
Crossings East Campus	\$510
Silver Springs	\$589
Bishops Corner Skilled Nursing and Rehab	\$690
Litchfield Woods Health care center	\$600
Montowese Health and Rehab	\$510
Connecticut Health of Greenwich	\$1,200
Maple View Manor	\$620
Water's Edge Center	\$110

While some nursing homes work toward improvement, others may think of these very small fines as the cost of doing business. The understaffed Department of Public Health cannot possibly provide the necessary regulation. Nursing homes must be held financially responsible and accountable when serious preventable harm happens. According to an investigative journalist's article, the Department does not even have the ability to fine home health care agencies.

Ensuring these businesses are carrying enough insurance to cover the cost of adverse events and make injured patients whole again is important.

The public, our families must be protected.

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