



**Connecticut Chapter**  
**NOW KNOWN AS THE HOME CARE**  
**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
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Testimony on Bill 6432

February 26, 2013

My name is Renny Wieland. I am here to testify in support of Raised Bill 6432, An Act Concerning Homemaker Services and Homemaker Companion Agencies. I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Chapter of the Home Care Association of America – HAOA (formerly known as the National Private Duty Association). This national organization represents hundreds of employment based homecare agencies whose mission is to strengthen the professionalism of private duty homecare through education and best practices.

I have been in the Home Care Industry for the past 33 years as an Executive Director of a Medicare Certified Agency and the owner of 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 6432 which addresses the misclassification of homemakers and companions used as independent contractors working in the home care field.

Registries do not provide a safety net for their workers through unemployment insurance since they classify their workers as independent contractors.

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 insurance at those registries. This fact alone should support the need to end this worker misclassification.

The consumer, usually an elderly, somewhat infirm individual, often does not know that they are responsible for "employing" those independent contractors along with providing the insurance mentioned above as well as reporting worker earnings.

Raised Bill 6432 supports the contractual requirements for all providers in the CT Homecare Program for Elders. This program mandates that all providers cover their employees with worker's compensation and unemployment insurances thereby treating all homecare workers provided by registries as employees.

I firmly believe that all homemakers and companions should be considered employees and therefore covered by Unemployment insurance for their safety and peace of mind.