LeadingAge Connecticut

Testimony to the Program Review and Investigations Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut

March 5, 2013

Regarding

House Bill 6514, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program and Investigations Committee Concerning Medicaid Payment Integrity

LeadingAge Connecticut is a statewide membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care. Our members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and municipal organizations that are committed to providing quality care and services to their residents and clients. Our member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, are dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging.

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like to submit testimony on House Bill 6514, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program and Investigations Committee Concerning Medicaid Payment Integrity.

Fraud and abuse have no place within the health care system and should never be tolerated within the Medicaid program. As Medicaid providers, the members of LeadingAge Connecticut understand, accept and support the need to protect the integrity of the program through state oversight and audits.

We encourage efforts to ensure that the oversight and audit processes used by state government are both fair and balanced and are designed so as not to add unnecessary expense to the health care field. Therefore we do not object to this proposal to provide a joint report regarding all of the state's efforts to prevent and control fraud, abuse and errors in the Medicaid payment system. This collaborative effort may help the state create a more efficient oversight system with oversight methods and audit practices that are fair, balanced and cost effective and which do not place unnecessary burdens on law abiding providers.

We also urge the state to make sure that the audit standards, which consist of state Medicaid payment regulations and policy provisions, are updated and clarified. While oversight is imperative to maintaining the integrity of the Medicaid program, it should not add unnecessary costs and burdens to the system. Given limited resources, it is important that the state's audit efforts focus on areas and providers that pose a true risk of fraud, waste, abuse and errors.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on these bills and we would gladly answer any question or be willing to work with the Committee on these important issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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