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RE: Testimony of Seniorlink Regarding Adult Family Living service

Seniorlink and its provider organization Caregiver Homes thanks Members of the Committees for your work to improve the health and well-being of Connecticut residents with sustainable policies and programs.

Suitably developed, Adult Family Living will contribute substantially to helping the State support consumers with disabilities at home, rebalance long-term care, and achieve cost-savings.

The draft waiver language to add AFL to Connecticut's continuum of home- and community-based services reflects many of the key concepts behind a successful Adult Family Living program:

- Appropriate use of family caregivers,
- Residence in either the consumer's or caregiver's home, and
- Provider agency oversight and support

We have some concerns, however, with the waiver language as drafted based on our experience providing the service in Massachusetts (since 2007) and Rhode Island (since 2010). In our public comments, provided to DSS on February 7, 2013, we recommended:

- Bi-monthly supervision and support from a dedicated AFL care manager as well as a nurse
- Caregiver respite through reasonable retainer payments for primary caregivers in addition to payments to alternate caregivers (all credentialed and overseen by an AFL provider agency)
- A rate for Level 3 that reflects the functional and behavioral health of the consumers meeting criteria for this level and the associated demands on caregivers and AFL agency professionals

Rather than request changes now to supervision and caregiver respite language, which could delay implementation further, we are focusing our advocacy on appropriate rates and, specifically, on an **increase in the Level 3 daily rate to \$86.90** (from the \$77.28 daily rate outlined in the waiver draft).

With appropriate rates, qualified provider agencies can hire and allocate professional staff resources above and beyond the minimum required, and make some accommodations for caregiver respite.

We are passionate about bringing this life-changing and cost-saving class of service to Connecticut as soon as possible, and will continue to assist in whatever way we are able.