

## Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes

*Testimony Concerning*

### **S.B. No. 1128 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES.**

Public Health Committee- March 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes, I would like to offer testimony on SB 1128- An Act Concerning Influenza Immunizations for Health Care Employees.

Connecticut has about 100 residential care homes in the state with approximately 2,700 total beds. Residential care homes provide a special combination of housing, personalized supportive services and care designed to respond to the individual needs of those who require a little more help with their activities of daily living but who do not need the skilled medical or nursing care provided in a nursing home. Residents include some of the state's most vulnerable people. About sixty percent of residents have mental disabilities while the remaining residents are elderly individuals.

Residential care homes are not a medical facility and their employees are not health care employees. Under SB 1128 all "nursing home facility" employees with direct resident contact would be required to receive influenza vaccinations. Residential care homes are included in the current definition of nursing home facility. As a result this would require all RCH employees to receive vaccinations despite not being healthcare employees. We therefore **ask that you exclude residential care homes from this proposal by specifically stating that this bill does not apply to residential care homes.**

Since residential care homes are not medical facilities they should be treated differently than healthcare providers. Residential care homes are paid through the Aid to the Aged, Blind & Disabled line items because they provide a non-medical service.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony and hope you will consider our suggestion of removing residential care homes from this proposal.