

## STATEWIDE COALITION OF PRESIDENTS OF RESIDENT COUNCILS

Hello my name is Brian Capshaw and I live at the nursing home Aurora Senior Living of East Hartford. I'm submitting/testifying on behalf of the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils representing all 26,000 Connecticut nursing home residents, of which approximately 16,000 receive a personal needs allowance (PNA) under Medicaid.

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra and distinguished members of the aging committee. As a nursing home resident I'm pleased to discuss H.B. 5226. In the 2011 budget we shared in the states sacrifice and took what was listed as temporary, a \$9 reduction in our PNA down to \$60 a month. We feel we should also share in the states prosperity. Thank you for proposing to increase the PNA to \$72

We would we like to see the reduction from 2011 restored and the cost of living adjustments (COLA) social security recipients received the last three years given to nursing home residents on Medicaid. In 2012 the cola was 3.6%, 2013 1.7% and 1.5% in 2014. With the \$9 restoration and cost of living adjustments given our monthly allowance would be about \$73.75.

What would an increase mean to a nursing home resident? Something's you may take for granted, a meal ordered out, a cold soda in the afternoon, a new shirt/blouse or maybe just a bag of bird seed so a resident can watch the birds out of his/her window.

We understand this will come with a price tag, but DSS should have been sending less Medicaid dollars to nursing home operators as we have turned over our social security increases as cost of care.

You're not alone in this effort, in the last year Maryland has increased their PNA by \$7 to \$75, Minnesota by \$6 to \$95, New Hampshire by \$9 to \$65 and Ohio has given their residents a \$5 increase. Currently Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York and New Mexico all have pending legislation to raise their states PNA. I urge you to join these other states from a cross the country and appropriate an increase in our PNA.

Last year this committee graciously passed on a bi-partisan vote 11-0 a PNA bill and it died in appropriations. We've already spoken to two members of the appropriations committee, Senator Kelly and Representative Adinolfi and the rest of the committee please don't let that happen this year.

I'd like to thank the committee for your time and consideration. I hope you will come together and restore the reduction from 2011 with COLA adjustments for Connecticut's nursing home residents who rely on Medicaid for the little extras most people take for granted.