



Testimony in support of SB 244: An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates

Home care and hospice home care organizations continue to provide state of the art, technologically sophisticated care to all state residents. Our mission however, is even more challenging now, since increased regulatory requirements are demanding more staff time. In addition, costs for every part of our business are increasing. These costs are tied directly to our need to provide excellent patient care, yet nowhere are we receiving more reimbursement for the care we provide. There has been no Medicaid reimbursement increase since 2005, yet there are absolutely no "costs of doing business" that have not increased in those past 9 years.

Care at home and not in the expensive hospital environment is preferred by patients and families. It is a logical, cost effective way to optimally treat and care for patients, with even more technological advancements able to be utilized for care in the home and home care seen by hospitals as cost savings to the health care system.

There have been volumes of testimonies from reputable skilled home care and hospice colleagues, facts & figures about our increasing costs to provide necessary care abound. Medicaid reimbursement staying flat since 2005 is a fact. It is a fact that nearly every cost that we have for providing home care to any and all our patients has increased.

Health care is a business; a business that provides care that supports and enhances the quality of health and life of our neighbors and families. Think of home care and hospice as "your" business and consider the facts and figures that you are now aware of that are needed to run this challenging human service business.

Consider what is necessary to do to meet the fiscal challenges of this "business".

Do the right thing and support increasing Medicaid reimbursement for home care. Please support SB 244.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Carol L Mahier RN MSN CHPCA President/CEO
Center for Hospice Care Southeast CT

