



CALA Testimony on Senate Bill 244 – An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates

The following shall constitute written testimony regarding Senate Bill 244 - An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates from the Connecticut Assisted Living Association (CALA).

CALA is a statewide organization that represents the owners and operators of some 125 managed residential communities offering Assisted Living services to Connecticut's older adults and senior citizens.

CALA is grateful to the Aging Committee for raising Bill 244 and is hopeful that the Committee will see fit to advance this measure in support of the important care and services provided to older adults in home and community based settings.

As you may know, Assisted Living is a unique combination of housing and supportive services provided in a residential setting defined in state regulation and statute as a Managed Residential Community (MRC). The care and services provided to Assisted Living residents is done so by a state health department licensed Assisted Living Service Agency (ALSA).

The CT Home Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE) provides needed support for the care and services portion of subsidized Assisted Living under all four of the state's pilot and demonstration programs in settings across the state. These four pilot and demonstration programs were established in 2004 and have not seen a reimbursement rate increase since the inception of the programs.

Connecticut residents currently being served and those who will be served in the future by the state's rebalancing efforts expect and deserve services provided by adequately compensated staff. History has shown that there is a direct relationship between quality of care and the ability of a care and services provider to recruit and retain qualified, dedicated, and passionate staff.

Please support passage of Senate Bill 244 for the very valuable supports it provides to older adults living statewide in a variety of settings including subsidized Assisted Living communities.

CALA remains available to serve as a resource to committee members as this proposal evolves.

Thank you for your consideration.