



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

Committee on Aging
Public Hearing
Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Written Testimony of Laurie Julian, Director of Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter (The Association).

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra and distinguished members of the Committee on Aging, on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of **S.B. 244 An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates**.

The Alzheimer's Association is a donor supported, non-profit organization serving the needs of families, health care professionals and those individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Association provides information and resources, support groups, education and training, and a 24 hour, 7 day a week Helpline.

The number of individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias will increase as the number of older adults increase. By 2050, the annual number of new cases of Alzheimer's is projected to more than double.¹ Individuals with cognitive impairments require complex care and a skilled workforce.

Along with Connecticut's re-balancing initiatives, demand for direct care workers employed in community-based settings, such as home health aides, homemakers and companion and personal care assistants will increase. Adequate reimbursement rates are necessary to develop a workforce with the skills to provide high-quality care. Increases are also essential to build an adequate infrastructure and network of long term care providers to deliver services and supports.

The recent report of the Task Force on Alzheimer's disease and Dementia recognizes the significant role Adult Day Care providers play in the continuum of care and by providing caregivers much needed respite and support: *In particular Adult Day represents an option that prevents isolation and can delay or completely divert individuals from nursing facilities. Due to limited and diminishing reimbursements, several of Connecticut's Adult Day centers are reducing services or closing. Ensure Adult Day Centers remain a viable community care option*

¹ Alzheimer's Association 2013 Facts and Figures.

by increasing the current reimbursement level to meet operating costs based on level of care provided (e.g. medical model requires nurses, aides and medication/health monitoring). The daily rate should include transportation costs. Reimbursements should be adjusted annually to reflect Cost of Living Adjustments.

<http://www.alz.org/documents/ct/alzheimerstaskforcefinalreport.pdf>

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of S.B. 244. Please feel free to contact me at Ljulian@alz.org, or (860) 828-2828.