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Geron Nursing

Respite Care, Inc.

*A Private Nursing Agency • Professional Care for the Older Person*

**SUPPORT SB-244, AN ACT INCREASING HOME CARE PROVIDER RATES**

March 4, 2014

Senator Ayala, Representative Serra and members of the Aging Committee, my name is Michael Gold, and I am the owner of GeronNursing & Respite Care, Inc.

In reference to Bill No. 244, we, GeronNursing Respite Care, Inc., a CT based corporation, are presently a provider participating in the State of CT home-care program for the elderly. We have participated in this program since 1995. We have weathered through many storms and continue our dedication to the care of our older population.

We respectfully ask our Legislature to pass this Proposed Bill No. 5208 and the Raised Bill No. 244. The State of CT has not increased our reimbursable rates since 2007. Since then, we have absorbed the ever increasing costs of doing business. However, at this time, due to the last increase of minimum wage from \$8.25/hr. to \$8.70/hr. effective January 1, 2014, it has become a financial hardship to providers like GeronNursing, who are reimbursed for the Personal Care Attendant or PCA, homemaker and companion delegation under the home care program for elders. We can no longer absorb this last increase.

We help folks stay at home for as long as possible. Most of these clients are our retired poor who need some extra help in their home in order to maintain their independence. Not only do we help with activities of daily living, but provide the ever watchful eye needed for their success to remain their homes. The alternative is for these people to reside in a nursing home at a higher expense to the State of CT.

We ask the Human Services Committee to bring forth this much needed increase in reimbursement to us providers in order to continue our work and save monies for our CT taxpayers.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Michael P. Gold, President

cc: Mrs. Eileen Adams, officer at CT Homemakers and Companions Association  
State Representative Cecilia Buck Taylor,  
State Senator Clark Chapin

Fully Bonded & Insured

Registered with the State of Connecticut Departments of Labor & Consumer Protection  
Member in Good Standing with the Better Business Bureau, the Greater New Milford Chamber of Commerce,  
Coalition of Agencies Relating to Elderly Services (C.A.R.E.S.),  
Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), Connecticut Homemaker and Companion Association,  
www.newmilfordbusiness.com (Networking Group), and founding member of the New Milford TRIAD Chapter