

February 13, 2014.

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Senator Bye, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to submit my written testimony. I wish that I could have been there to speak with you in person, but conditions are such that I must be at home to care for my wife at that particular time of the day.

My name is Adelbert (Bert) Blass Jr. I live in Woodbury, CT. and I am the caregiver for my wife Nancy Blass who is bed-ridden with multiple sclerosis and other medical conditions. I extend my appreciation to Governor Malloy and the Legislature for their long standing support of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities.

I am requesting that the Appropriations Committee provide funding for an additional 50 slots for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD).

CHCPAD is Connecticut's only home care program with care management for adults between the ages of 19-64 who have degenerative neurological diseases. The program currently has a waiting list of over 100 people. The only way for a slot to open up on this waiting list is by someone who sadly has passed on or whose condition has deteriorated to the point where they must be admitted to a nursing facility. Needless to say, this can and usually is a very lengthy process.

The average yearly cost of home care for individuals on the program is \$16,000 compared to a cost of \$72,000 per year if the individual were to be on Medicaid and living in a nursing home. SAVINGS: \$56,000 per person per year for a total of over \$2.8 million annually.

The program helps to keep younger people at home and out of nursing homes. It provides services including home health care, home delivered meals, adult day care, homemaker services and care management.

Being that my wife is a participant in the program, it has provided me with resources that I would normally not have. One of these valuable resources is having the services of Companions and Homemakers. It has allowed me to have the time required for my Doctor's appointments as well as running errands and having the time to unwind. Before my wife was enrolled in the program, I found it very difficult to take care of Nancy and

have the time to do everyday household chores as well as take care of myself. If I did not have the program to rely on, my wife might very well have been in a nursing home.

Again, if you could provide funding for 50 more slots in the CHCPAD Program so that others could benefit from this very important resource, you would be providing a great service to those who truly need and deserve this service.

Thank you.

Adelbert Blass Jr./Caregiver and P.O.A. for Nancy Blass