

TESTIMONY OF Kal Patel, Meadowbrook Manor, Administrator
CONCERNING
HB 5030- AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015.

Department of Social Services- Residential Care Home Funding
Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee Hearing, February 14, 2014

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services, my name is Kal Patel. I am a board member of the CT Association of Residential Care Home and owner of Meadowbrook Manor in Center brook and Essex Village Manor in Essex CT. I am submitting my testimony regarding the Governor's Budget, specifically the capping of residential care home rates and potential cuts to residential care homes.

The CT Association of Residential Care Homes includes over sixty of the states approximately one hundred homes. We serve fifty six residents, about sixty percent of which have behavioral health or mental health diagnoses and the remaining percentage being elderly. We provide residence with 24 hour staff supervision, medication supervision, housekeeping, breakfast, lunch, dinner, recreation, and physical plant maintenance for approximately \$2750 per month. The sad truth here is that the amount it costs to care for our residents (utilities, employment cost, food, property upkeep and insurance) have gone up over the past few years but my rate has remained almost the same \$2750. The vast majority of our employees who make a modest working wage had to take a pay freeze. I've had to increase their health insurance contributions and drop family coverage. Additionally we've had to delay improvements and maintenance to the facility.

Last year, there was a small increase in rates to some residential care homes. Because it was only a partial increase only some homes received the increase. These included many homes that had previously spent significant amounts of money on repairs and other expenses. This small increase enabled reimbursement for some of these costs. The Governor's budget could lead to a decrease in funding for residential care homes.

We ask that you please uncap residential care home rates. Many homes are already at a breaking point. Increased costs in gas, insurance and food expenses accompanied by capped rates have made operating homes very difficult. Without these homes serving this vulnerable population, the state would be spending significantly more dollars providing care for these individuals. Residential care homes are critical to many of these people who often live in the home for 20 years or more.

Respectfully,
Kal Patel
Meadowbrook Manor/ Essex Village Manor