

Testimony of Patricia J Wrice

Executive Director

Expand Access to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities

February 14, 2014

Good Afternoon, members of the Human Services Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. On behalf of Operation Fuel, we want to thank you for holding this hearing and supporting the efforts of Operation Fuel and the MS Society.

As you know, Connecticut residents are struggling daily to keep up with growing demands on their shrinking dollars. From the high cost of energy to keep the heat or lights on, to the high cost of medicines, we see the day to day economic pressures felt by the people we serve. Imagine those challenges along with living with multiple sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimer's Parkinson's or Huntington's disease where one is likely to need home care?

We ask that you support the funding of 50 additional slots in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD) pilot program. This will provide home based services to people age 18-64, living with degenerative neurological conditions, and allow them to stay in their homes.

Currently, there are 103 people on a 3-year waiting list to enroll in this program which demonstrates that there is a demand for this service.

Thank you for your attention and we hope that you expand funding to this urgently needed program that's making a difference in the lives of Connecticut residents with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Operation Fuel, Inc.