



CONNECTICUT LEGAL SERVICES

A PRIVATE NONPROFIT CORPORATION

20 SUMMER STREET STAMFORD, CT 06901

TELEPHONE (203) 348-9216

FAX (203) 348-2589

E-MAIL STAMFORD@CONNLEGALESERVICES.ORG

JEAN MILLS ARANHA
FREDERIC S. BRODY
MASSIEL ZUCCO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ALEKSANDR FROMZEL
JILL PLANCHER
CLAUDINE SIEGEL
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

SHERYL-ANN BARRETT
ANA ROMERO
JEANNETTE S. VALERO
LEGAL ASSISTANTS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
62 WASHINGTON STREET
MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
(860) 344-0447

RICHARD F. ORR
BOARD CHAIR

STEVEN D. EPPLER-EPSTEIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LAW OFFICES

211 STATE STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

16 MAIN STREET
NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

153 WILLIAMS STREET
NEW LONDON, CT 06320

20 SUMMER STREET
STAMFORD, CT 06901

85 CENTRAL AVENUE
WATERBURY, CT 06702

872 MAIN STREET
WILLIMANTIC, CT 06226

SATELLITE OFFICES

2 WEST STREET
DANBURY, CT 06810

5 COLONY STREET
MERIDEN, CT 06451

98 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SOUTH NORWALK, CT 06854

29 NAEK ROAD, SUITE 5A
VERNON, CT 06066

Testimony of Jean Mills Aranha, Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. In Support of HB 5136: An Act Concerning Nursing Home Transparency February 19, 2014

To Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

My name is Jean Mills Aranha; I am an attorney working in the Elder Law and Public Benefit Units of Connecticut Legal Services in Stamford. I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 5136 on behalf of the legal services programs in Connecticut and the low income individuals we serve.

One of our priorities at Connecticut Legal Services is enforcing the rights of nursing home residents. These individuals are some of our most vulnerable citizens; they are elderly, ill, injured or disabled. As you well know, the taxpayers of the State of Connecticut pay for the care of many nursing home residents through the Medicaid program, administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

Nursing homes that receive state funding are currently required to submit annual cost reports to the DSS. This bill would require for-profit nursing homes that receive state funding to report in greater detail on the transactions they conduct with related parties. They would also be required to include in their reports the actual cost of the goods and services being provided and the mark-up, profit or administrative charges on purchases from related parties.

More transparency is needed for these transactions so that DSS can determine whether payments to related parties are obscuring the true financial situation of the nursing home. Without knowing

