

February 20, 2014

To: Senator Gayle S. Slossberg, Co-chair, Human Services Committee
Representative Catherine F. Abercrombie, Co-chair, Human Services Committee
Members, Human Services Committee

Re: S.B. No. 104 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES
FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE.

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Aldo Napoletano and I am the Administrator of Madison House, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, located in Madison, Connecticut. Madison House is a longstanding provider of nursing and rehabilitative care in the community. Our service area includes East Haven, Branford, Guilford, Madison, Clinton, Westbrook, Old Saybrook and Middletown. We are a 90 bed facility, with approximately 130 employees. I am writing to ask for the support of the Human Services Committee in supporting S.B. No. 104 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE. This bill is being advanced by the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), of which Madison House is a member.

This legislation is badly needed to address the persistent and worsening problem of excessive delays in the long term care Medicaid eligibility determination process at the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) for skilled nursing facilities. Connecticut skilled nursing facilities and their residents are harmed by excessive delays in the eligibility determination process. As Medicaid applicants residing in nursing facilities await final disposition of their requests for state help, Connecticut nursing homes are simultaneously providing uncompensated care for periods of time often exceeding federal standard of promptness rules. This bill addresses this situation by requiring advanced payments for the money owed by the state. The bill also addresses the fundamental unfairness of requiring nursing facilities to pay provider taxes, penalties, interest and fees for care provided to Medicaid applicants and recipients, when no payment is being received from Medicaid for providing care due to excessive delays.

Our nursing home is harmed by these excessive Medicaid eligibility and payment delays. Currently, we have two (2) outstanding cases where we have been waiting for four month for one and close to 12 months for another. The outstanding dollars are \$30,000 and \$70,000 respectively.

CAHCF applauds and encourages the DSS efforts to modernize its eligibility systems and for their commitment to hire badly-needed eligibility staff to address delays across the entire public and medical assistance spectrum. However, the state's initiatives are not yet providing relief, and we are concerned the situation may continue to worsen. Please pass this bill. Our nursing home needs your help.

Sincerely,

Aldo Napoletano
Administrator