CAADC

Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers, Inc.

Testimony to the Human Services Committee

Submitted in support of

Senate Bill 254, An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly

March 4, 2014

The Connecticut Association of Adult Day Centers (CAADC), an organization of 49 adult day centers from across the state of Connecticut, respectfully submits the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 254, An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for the Connecticut Home-care Program for the Elderly.

The proposal for presumptive Medicaid eligibility for the Home Care Program for Elders attempts to address a growing crisis that is affecting all consumers and providers of long term care - the excessive delays in the Medicaid eligibility process. The complexity, misunderstanding and delays in the current application and eligibility process for both Medicaid and the State Funded Waiver Programs are thwarting timely access to needed community-based long term care services. The state must address this crisis and make it easier for older adults and their families to seek and receive the right services, at the right time, and in the right setting.

We are all well aware that there are many uncomplicated Medicaid applications for potential clients of the Connecticut Home Care Program just waiting to be processed. While these potential clients of the program are waiting for their applications to be processed, their conditions are declining, family members are losing time at work and nursing home admission becomes the only solution. This situation is contrary to what our state has promised which is to give full support to caring for older adults in the community and to delay or prevent nursing home admissions. The current eligibility processing crisis is breaking that promise. Therefore we support this proposed bill which would provide presumptive Medicaid eligibility so as to provide timely coverage for community based services that will give many older adults and families an opportunity to remain at home receiving excellent services and family supports.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

CAADC, 1340 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037, (860) 828-8653, adc@leadingagect.org

View our video about how wonderful a day can be at a certified adult day center.
Go to www.leadingagect.org and click on ***Adult Day Centers***