



Testimony to the Human Services Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

March 13, 2014

Supporting

HB 5500, An Act Concerning Provider Audits under the Medicaid Program

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the President of LeadingAge Connecticut, a statewide membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care, services and supports and including senior housing. On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut, I would like to submit the following testimony in support of HB 5500, An Act Concerning Provider Audits under the Medicaid Program, and offer the Committee our assistance as you consider this bill.

Fraud and abuse have no place within the health care system and should never be tolerated within the Medicaid program. As Medicaid providers, the members of LeadingAge Connecticut understand, accept and support the need to protect the integrity of the program through state oversight and audits, but we encourage efforts to ensure that the oversight and audit processes used by state government are both fair and balanced and are designed so as not to add unnecessary expense to the health care field.

LeadingAge Connecticut has previously called for audit practices that are fair, balanced, efficient and cost effective and which do not place unnecessary burdens on law abiding providers. We therefore support this proposal which would bring a level of fairness into the audit and extrapolation processes and which would prohibit the use of a contingency payment method to reimburse outside audit contractors.

We also urge the state to make sure that the audit standards, which consist of state Medicaid payment regulations and policy provisions, are updated and clarified. While oversight is imperative to maintaining the integrity of the Medicaid program, it should not add unnecessary costs and burdens to the system.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mag Morelli, President



(860) 828-2903, mmorelli@leadingagect.org, 1340 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037 www.leadingagect.org

LeadingAge Connecticut is a membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of care including nursing homes, residential care homes, housing for the elderly, continuing care retirement communities, adult day centers, home care and assisted living agencies. By continuing a tradition of mission-driven, consumer-centered management and competent, hands-on care, not-for-profits set the standard in the continuum of housing, care and services for the most vulnerable aging adults.