



- Aaron Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Greentree Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Bel-Air Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Lord Chamberlain Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Cheshire House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Lord Chamberlain Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center



**February 20, 2014**

**Written testimony of Michelle A. Farmer, Corporate AR Manager, Ryders Health Management (6 Facilities) Concerning:**

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

**Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Michelle A. Farmer. I am Corporate AR Manager at Ryders Health Management, in Stratford, Connecticut. Aaron Manor, Belair Manor, Cheshire House, Greentree Manor, Mystic Manor and Lord Chamberlain Nursing are all longstanding providers of nursing care in various communities throughout the State of Connecticut. Our Facilities number of beds range from 60 -190, our estimated number of employees is approximately 1500, two of our facilities have bronze awards, four of them are listed as five-star facilities. I am here this afternoon to ask the Human Services Committee to ask for your support for 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 our organization 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 homes are harmed by these excessive Medicaid eligibility and payment delays. We have an estimated \$725,475.00 currently outstanding in pendings. This dollar is from approximately 35 cases and of the 35 cases the highest number of days pending being 393 days with oldest application date of 2/1/2013. While these residents are pending we are covering expenses to take excellent care of them and paying out the required provider tax payments while they are yet pending.**

**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.**

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.