



MANCHESTER MANOR
HEALTH CARE CENTER

Health Center for Arbors of Hop Brook

February 20, 2014

Written testimony of Paul Liistro CEO/Owner of Vernon Manor Health Care Center 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 Paul Liistro. I am Chief Operating Officer and Owner at Manchester Manor Health Care Center, in Manchester, Connecticut. Manchester Manor is a family owned, 126-bed skilled nursing facility, dedicated to providing quality health care to seniors since 1966. 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 home is harmed by these excessive Medicaid eligibility and payment delays. At Manchester Manor, we are owed over \$560,000 for 10 pending Medicaid patients to whom we are providing care and not getting paid. Our money is over 8 months old. At the same time, we are required to pay over \$58,000 in Nursing Home User Fee taxes for the same pending cases. Under these restrictions on cash flow, we cannot continue to provide the high quality of care we are committed to.

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.



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