



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE AT HOME™

TESTIMONY

Delivered by Deborah R. Hoyt, President and CEO
The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home
Before the Human Services Committee
March 11, 2014

SUPPORT: SENATE BILL 321, AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COST SAVINGS
SUPPORT: SENATE BILL 326, AN ACT CONCERNING FEDERAL MEDICAID WAIVERS
SUPPORT: SENATE BILL 329, AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE

Good morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of Human Services Committee. My name is Deborah Hoyt, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home. The Association represents 60 Connecticut DPH licensed/Medicare certified home health and hospice agencies that foster cost-effective, person-centered healthcare in the setting people prefer most – their own home. Collectively, our agency providers deliver care to more CT residents each day than those housed in CT hospitals and nursing homes combined. As a major employer with a growing workforce, our 17,000 home health care workers are providing high-tech and telehealth interventions for children, adults, and seniors. We are Connecticut's community-based safety net, ensuring that the chronic conditions of the frail elderly, disabled, and homebound are managed and their care is well-coordinated across the healthcare continuum. We urge the committee to favorably report SB 321, SB 326 and SB 329.

SB 321 creates a task force to study and make recommendations for best practices concerning Medicaid cost savings. Our association supports the bill and appreciates that the task force will have a representative of the home health care and hospice industry.

SB 326 requires the Commissioner of Social Services to conduct a study to determine the need for any state waivers from federal Medicaid requirements or changes in the Medicaid state plan and to make recommendations to the Human Service Committee on how to address gaps in providing services and improving access to such services. We support legislative proposals in general, and SB 326 in particular, that seek to find methods to increase the number of residents receiving health care at home.

SB 329 directs the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Commissioner on Aging, to conduct a study and to make recommendations on the long-term care needs of state residents. We are pleased that the study will collect data showing the number of residents that have been removed from institutionalized settings to home and community-based settings and the savings realized by the state on long-term care related to the Money Follows the Person for calendar years 2010 to 2013. We support Senate Bill 329 as it will assist the state and home health care providers to make informed plans to meet the future needs of Connecticut's seniors.

Please reach out to us as a resource for additional information at any time.

Thank you.