

Aging Committee Public Hearing
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Senator Flexer, Representative Serra and esteemed members of the Aging Committee, my name is Bill Eddy of Simsbury, Connecticut. I have been a member volunteer of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging since 2005. The Commission supports this bill. However, I also wanted to go on record with support and some comments and suggestions of my own. Thank you for this opportunity.

HB 5455: AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY CAREGIVERS

which proposes that title 19a of the general statutes be amended to adopt the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act to require hospitals *and rehabilitation facilities* to

- Record Names of Family Caregivers,
- Notify Them of Discharge Plans for their loved ones,
- Provide Instructions for Follow-up Care

My suggestions are to modify the language in the bill as follows:

- Record *and Recognize* Names of Family Caregivers
- Notify *and Consult with* Them *on the* Discharge Plans for their loved ones *and Provide a Copy of the Transfer Information*
- Provide *Written* Instructions for Follow-up Care

"Record" means recognize the name of the family caregiver in addition to the patient while in the institutional setting because they are a team with a joint need to know.

"Notify them of Discharge Plans" means give them not only a heads up but also provide a copy of the Discharge Plan and the written Transfer Information for a Rehabilitation facility before going home or for Home Care. The caregiver may not get this valuable information unless it is spelled out. Providing maximum perspective for the family caregiver as well as the patient is very important.

"Provide Instructions for Follow-up Care" means instructions in writing that can be followed by the family caregiver or given to rehab therapy professionals if that is the discharge doctor's order.

This is an excellent bill because it focuses upon the family caregiver. It is all about meaningful coordination with and information going to the people who do the lion's share of the work and bear the lion's share of the responsibility when a family member returns home from the hospital or a rehabilitation therapy institution.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and your consideration.