



## State of Connecticut

### SENATE

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Feb. 10, 2015

Esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Aging:

I am state Senator Tony Hwang, and I am here to testify in support of SB 290.

As we try to rein in health care costs, reduce costly hospital readmissions and trips to the emergency room, passage of this bill is paramount.

According to the Legislative Commission on Aging, there are more than 500,000 Connecticut residents who provide care every day to their loved with tasks such as bathing, dressing, finances, transportation, and medical care. The total economic impact of this unpaid care is estimated to be \$5.8 billion.

The unfortunate reality is that many of these caregivers feel unprepared to perform the medical tasks necessary to keep their loved ones out of the hospital and in the community at home where they want to be.

SB 290, known as the Caregiver, Advise, Record, and Enable (CARE) Act, is designed to change that, and to empower and educate these individuals who work tirelessly to care for their loved ones. Importantly, this bill comes at no cost to the state or taxpayers.

The Act would simply require hospitals to:

- 1) provide each patient with the opportunity to designate a caregiver upon the patient's admission to the hospital;
- 2) notify the designated caregiver if the patient is to be discharged to another facility or back to his or her home; and
- 3) provide the caregiver with instructions on how to perform medication management, wound care, injections or other medical tasks for the patient when the patient returns home.

If you believe that we should encourage and empower residents to age in place—and provide their family and friends with the tools they need to support and care for them to the best of their abilities—then I ask for you too to support SB 290.

Respectfully,

Tony Hwang  
State Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District