



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
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**Testimony in Support of S.B. 860:
An Act Concerning Presumptive Medicaid Eligibility for Home Care
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
February 17, 2015**

Senator Flexer, Representative Serra, and distinguished members of the Aging Committee,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of S.B. 860 An Act concerning presumptive Medicaid eligibility for home care. This legislation would allow more elderly persons to receive more cost-effective care in a home setting rather than an institution by establishing a system of presumptive Medicaid eligibility.

I am writing on behalf of the 240 congregations and more than 75,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members.

The term, "Presumptive Eligibility", according to Marie Allen, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging, describes a process by which an applicant is temporarily accepted for Medicaid and can receive services following an initial screening. The applicant must still be approved by the Department of Social Services, but the application process would not delay services.

Connecticut has Presumptive Eligibility for pregnant women in low-income families. Offering the provision to elderly persons for home care will be a cost benefit from more costly institutional care. Connecticut home care applicants are frail, elderly adults who face the risk of nursing home placement because they are not able to provide self-care. Presumptive eligibility has been used in thirty-one states currently for pregnant women, and sixteen states use it for children.¹

Health Care is a basic human right. Health care should be provided when needed, and should not be unnecessarily delayed while paperwork is processed. All of God's people deserve access to healthcare when needed and where is most desirable, in the comfort of their own home. We therefore, urge the Committee to support H.B. 860 an Act concerning presumptive Medicaid eligibility for home care which would allow more elderly persons to receive more cost-effective care in a home setting rather than an institution by establishing a system of presumptive Medicaid eligibility.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of H.B. 860.

Blessings,
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¹ Enroll America Presumptive Eligibility: New Options in 2014

God is still speaking,

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