

5587



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**CHAIR**  
GENERAL LAW

**MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
BANKS COMMITTEE

To: Human Services Committee

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Chairman Moore, Chairman Abercrombie, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this brief written testimony in support of a HB <sup>5587</sup>~~5459~~ which I introduced after being approached by residents of two outstanding Continuing-Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) located in Bloomfield known as Seabury and Duncaster.

The residents of these CCRC's are most appreciative of the care and support that they receive at both Seabury and Duncaster. Still, they had one major concern related to their inability to participate in the decision-making process on issues affecting living conditions at the CCRC. While CCRC's have traditionally created Resident Councils, such Councils usually obtain information on Board policies "after the fact". The residents indicated that they would like to "participate" in the discussion and vote as policies are being formulated.

The residents explained that they consider their CCRC as a permanent home for the next chapter of their lives. Most of the residents come from professional backgrounds and participate in an array of clubs as well as in the civic life of their local communities. They typically pay significant fees to reside at the CCRC and have come to expect the right to participate in the governance as decisions are made by the CCRC Board that impact their lives. The residential environment at a CCRC is much more than being a tenant in an apartment complex. It is more akin to being a condo "owner", where owners participate and vote on condo issues. Residents

consider the CCRC as their “home” and the volunteerism, participation, clubs, social activities all help define the unique living environment that characterizes CCRC’s throughout our state. Participating in the governance should be a natural part of this special CCRC dynamic.

CCRC residents only ask to have a representative, chosen by their Residents Council, to sit on the CCRC Board of Directors as a voting member. This will allow the residents of every CCRC to participate in the governance. It will also convey a message that residents are truly considered part of the CCRC community.

I thank you for your interest in this proposed legislation and hope that you will agree that its purpose achieves a fair disposition that will enhance the quality of life for thousands of Connecticut residents living in a CCRC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David A. Baram".

David A. Baram

State Representative