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Written testimony of Scott Ziskin, President and CEO, of Paradigm Healthcare Development Concerning:

H.B. No. 6674 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE.

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Scott Ziskin. I am the President and CEO at Paradigm Healthcare Development in Connecticut. Paradigm Healthcare Development is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the communities of Waterbury, Prospect, New Haven, South Windsor, Torrington, and West Haven, Connecticut. We have 663 beds and currently employ over 1100 hard working and caring staff. I am here this afternoon to ask the Human Services Committee to ask for your support for H.B. No. 6674 (RAISED) AN ACT PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE. This bill is being advanced by the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), of which our organization is a member.

This legislation is badly needed to address the negative consequences for skilled nursing facilities when there are excessive delays in the long term care Medicaid eligibility determination process. It is especially unfair that skilled nursing facilities are required to pay a \$21.00 provider tax, penalties, interest and fees for care provided to Medicaid applicants and recipients, when no payment is being received from Medicaid for providing care due to excessive delays. This bill offers a partial remedy to this problem by simply providing that the skilled nursing facility's obligation to pay the provider tax for residents pending Medicaid doesn't actually become due until the nursing facility has actually been paid by Medicaid.

For example, Paradigm is currently owed \$1.2M outstanding Medicaid Pending dollars, yet we are responsible for paying provider tax payments on these same cases in the amount of \$88,000.00 even though we have received no reimbursement from Medicaid.

While the bill is not a full remedy to the harm that is caused when cases are delayed for excessive periods of time, it is a very fair solution to the added injury of having to pay taxes on a case where no Medicaid reimbursement has been received.

I hope you will advance the bill, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.