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Statement of Martin Sbriglio
Human Services Committee

in support of HB 6674, AA PROVIDING FINANCIAL
RELIEF TO NURSING HOMES FOR UNCOMPENSATED CARE

February 10, 2015

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and the members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Martin Sbriglio. I am President and chief executive officer of Ryders Health Management, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate; we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for 66 years right here in this state.

I am here this afternoon to ask for your support of HB 6674, 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.

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.