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February 4, 2015

Written testimony of Donna C. Stango, Administrator of Paradigm Healthcare Center of Waterbury regarding:

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

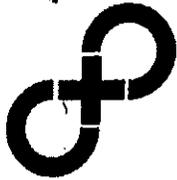
***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** **<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>**

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Donna Stango and I am the Administrator of Paradigm Healthcare Center of Waterbury located on Whitewood Road in Waterbury, Connecticut. Paradigm Healthcare Center of Waterbury is a 120 bed facility that is a longstanding provider of nursing and rehabilitative care servicing the local communities of Waterbury, Watertown and neighboring towns. We have had good annual state surveys and have over 90% occupancy. I have been the administrator here for almost three years and am also a resident of Watertown. My facility employs over 150 individuals, almost all from the local area. My residents, are also local individuals, the majority of whom are covered by Medicaid insurance.

I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills recognize that the facilities will not be able to continue providing much needed services if this continues. The bills provide for increasing rates, by an annual cost of living adjustment or through a formula that increases rates based on the nursing facilities costs.



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The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Costs of instituting Electronic medical records as mandated
- Costs associated with the Affordable Care Act (39,000)
- Rising Utility costs – electricity and natural gas (29,000)
- Costs of performing Background Checks on all employees (5,000)
- FUTA credit reduction (16,000)

(Costs are estimates for 120 bed facility as determined by a workgroup of the Ct Association of Health Care Facilities.)

These rising uncontrollable costs represent approximately \$2.15 for every day of care rendered to Medicaid recipients.

Please take a moment to review the information provided. Your assistance in advancing these bills will provide our facility the help needed to continue to provide quality care and services to the local residents of the greater Waterbury community. We are committed to providing that care – but we need your help.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you.

Donna C. Stango

Administrator

Paradigm Healthcare Center of Waterbury

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