



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 6716:
An Act Expanding Access to 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 H.B. 6716 : An Act Expanding Access to Home Care. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ supports expanding eligibility for home-care services for persons age sixty-five or older.

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.

Health Care centered in the home is a cost-effective, person-centered approach to care delivery and management of chronic diseases. Home care saves state dollars and keeps people out of nursing homes and emergency rooms. From 2009 to 2013, the Department of Social Services (DSS) has reported over \$533.5 million in Medicaid savings from using home and community based services. Furthermore, over this 5 year period the monthly DSS expenditure for home health services in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders decreased by over 30%. DSS is projecting that the number of individuals over 65 who are Medicaid eligible for home and community based services will increase by close to 3,000 since 2013, an increase of over 23%. Home health workers are a major employer and have a growing workforce. For 2015, DSS projects a need for an additional 925 home and community based direct care workers and by 2020, DSS is projecting a need of another 1,800 direct care workers.¹

People age sixty-five and older deserve access to home care. Besides being the preferred setting for their care, there are significant monetary savings when health care is provided at home. We therefore urge the Committee to support H.B. 6716 which if adopted would expand eligibility for home-care services for persons age sixty-five and older.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of House Bill 6716 which would expand access to home care.

Blessings,
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¹ CT Association of Healthcare at Home

God is still speaking,

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