



# Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC

*"Family First"*

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***Written testimony of Curtis Rodowicz, Administrator of Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC, Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposed Budget***

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Curtis Rodowicz. I am the Administrator at Colonial Health & Rehab Center of Plainfield, LLC in Plainfield, Connecticut. Colonial Health & Rehab is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community comprised of 90 dual certified beds and 123 employees.

I want to begin by letting you know how proud I am of the caregivers in other sectors of what make our continuum strong and reliable. I'm the Administrator of a center but the other providers and direct care staff in the room all want what I want. Funding restored to our continuum and basic cost of living increases. Transit funds can be bonded to complete several of the Governor's road projects while maintaining key services that are vital to our community and citizens of the state. As the Governor indicated in State of the State address, he would not balance the budget on the backs of education and our teachers. As important as funding to education is to our states future prosperity, our elderly and infirmed should be held in the same if not higher regard.

Delivering care based on increasing community expectations and regulatory requirements is becoming progressively difficult. The reason it's getting so hard isn't really difficult to understand. Our Governor and the legislature have provided almost no help in the budget for the past 7 years; if unchanged, 8 years. Not only has there been 0% increase for nursing facilities for the past 7 years, but we have also absorbed an arbitrary cut in Medicaid funding this past cost year. Funding is crucial to the healthcare system success as a whole. Flat reimbursement and or cuts while almost all of our costs are increasing, including unfunded government mandates, is a reckless approach to healthcare. I am not sure how I could implement any cuts as the Administrator or how I would tell my employees or residents that we need to cut even more than our flat funding has required over the years.

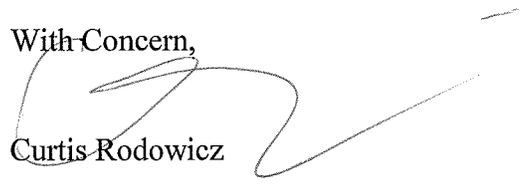
Here are some examples of what we've been up against while the rates have been stagnant:

- Utility increased January 1, 2015
- ABCMS Background check effective 4/1/2015 will increase our background check per employee by more than \$52 per applicant.
- Staff Educational requirements: Oral Care training and Dementia Training
- Imminent labor actions directly related to wholly inadequate funding. (Quite frankly, they will not be striking our center they will be striking you, our government).

Please help us deliver the high quality care we want to deliver. Please give us the resources we need to do it.

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

With Concern,

  
Curtis Rodowicz

Administrator