



**VALERIE  
MANOR**

*"Quality Health Care in an  
Elegant Setting"*

**February 27, 2015**

***Written testimony of Marisa Jones, Administrator, Valerie Manor Health Care Center 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 Marisa Jones and I am the Administrator at Valerie Manor Health Care Center in Torrington, Connecticut. Valerie Manor is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Torrington with 151 skilled beds and 250 employees. We have earned a 5 star quality rating through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and are a recent recipient of recognition from the American Health Care Association for safely reducing hospital readmissions and the off-label use of antipsychotics.

First, I'd like to express how proud I am to be here with my staff representing Valerie Manor. As the Administrator, I am not only speaking for myself but also for our devoted caregivers. We all strive to produce the same results and that is to deliver the highest quality of care to anyone who comes to Valerie Manor. These workers and all those currently caring for our most vulnerable population are doing an amazing job, and I am so grateful to them and for everything they do.

Being able to provide the exemplary care every individual deserves has so many challenges and it is only getting harder and harder. The reason it is getting so hard is pretty straightforward---for basically the last 8 years, there has been almost no help in the budget. If the budget passes as is, it will be a decade of nearly flat funding for our nursing facility while almost all of our costs continue rising. The idea that our nursing facility could be cut this session because of our state's ongoing financial troubles is devastating and it is beyond my ability to understand how we would be able deliver the care we are committed to providing. I am not sure how I, as the administrator, could implement and communicate the necessity of cutting even more than our flat funding has required over the years.

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

- Costs for food, medical supplies and utilities required to care for our vulnerable population have significantly increased but we are still expected to provide the same high level quality of care
- Individuals are admitting at a higher acuity level. Those that are higher functioning are now returning home and the complex patients with various co-morbidities are being treated in our skilled nursing facilities
- The expectations of our front line caregivers continue growing while the ability to provide necessary resources remains limited

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

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