

Companions & Homemakers, Inc.
Testimony Concerning Proposed Bill No. 932
General Law Committee
March 5, 2015

Good afternoon members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Jonathan Hunt and I am a Regional Care Manager with Companions & Homemakers, Inc. Regarding Raised Bill SB 932, Companions & Homemakers is in support of notification to the consumer by a registry, and their advising of potential risks and liabilities, as well as informing the consumer of their role as the direct employer. However, we are not in support of this notification being presented after services commence, but instead, advocate that it be done prior.

By delaying notification of full disclosure of responsibility by the consumer, homemaker and/or companion service registries are not fully disclosing to the consumer the full picture of benefits and risks in choosing to employ their homecare workers directly, in lieu of contracting an agency-employer model, and may in turn be deemed as deceptive practice.

As a compromise, we support the proposed language submitted in testimony by the Home Care Association of America, Connecticut Chapter, and feel this bill would then be acceptable with the addition of a verbal disclosure to the consumer prior to services commencing, specifying to the consumer the legal liabilities of such registry to the individual consumer.

This would in turn ensure consumer awareness, and that the consumer is being provided with all pertinent information in order to make an educated choice in their purchased plan of care.

I thank you for your time and attention, and welcome any questions you may have.