



February 5, 2015

Written testimony of Patricia Hamill, M.S., Administrator, Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Concerning

***Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**

***Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.**

***Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Patricia Hamill, M.S., I am the Administrator at Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Middletown, Connecticut. Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Middletown with 102 skilled nursing beds and 201 employees. We are a recent Recipient of Recognition from The American Health Care Association for safely reducing the off label use of antipsychotics.

First, 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. 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 address the fundamental problem of the escalating cost of proving high quality health care by increasing payments based on a cost of living adjustment. .

The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our skilled 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:

- Overall increase in the acuity of our residents. More complex and compromised patients are coming to us from the hospital. This requires more skilled nursing services.
- Our long term care residents are aging in place and are requiring much more care. The average age in my facility is 87 with four residents over the age of 100, with the oldest being 104.
- Significant increase in costs of electricity, food, natural gas, encryption software, drugs, and medical supplies.
- Medication for Medicare A residents is much more costly. Under our reimbursement, Medicare A residents' medications are covered in our inclusive rate.

- We are experiencing a great challenge in collecting applied income from residents to pay for their care. This is due to the overall lagging economy and the increasing shared dependence of families on an elderly person's social security and pension.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

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