



*February 11, 2016*

*Written testimony of James M. Pettey, Administrator, Bayview Health Care, 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 James M. Pettey. I am the Administrator at Bayview Health Care in Waterford, Connecticut. Bayview is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the communities of Waterford, East Lyme and New London. Bayview has 127 beds, 220 employees, and is a Five Star quality provider.

I want to begin by letting you know how proud I am to be here at Bayview with some of the most dedicated professionals I have ever worked with. I'm the administrator, but this team of devoted caregivers, from Nursing and Therapy to Housekeeping and Dietary, all want what I want----that is to deliver the highest quality care experience to anyone who comes to Bayview. And these workers are doing an amazing job, and I am so grateful to them, and proud of them, for everything they are doing. We send many people home with the strength and knowledge to enable them to live in the community safely, and those that are unable to return home stay with us. For those that stay, our goal is to maintain them at the highest possible level of function and quality of life.

But making the care great has so many challenges. Making the care what everyone wants for their loved ones is getting harder and harder. And the reason it's getting so hard isn't really difficult to understand---there has been almost no help in the budget for now going on 10 years. While the budget proposal doesn't now have a specific nursing home reduction, if passed as is, it will be a decade of nearly flat funding for our nursing facility. The idea that our nursing facility could be cut this session because of our state's ongoing financial troubles is devastating. It is really beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we are expected to deliver if we were cut.

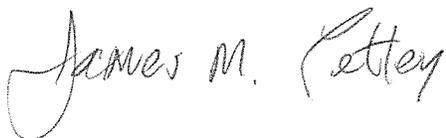
I do want to say how grateful we are that money was included in last year's budget for our nursing home workers. Acknowledging the critically important job being done every day with wage and benefit increases for our caregivers is so important to our mission to deliver high quality care.

But we under so many additional pressures beyond the important need to pay our workers a fair wage for the great jobs they are doing. Here are some examples:

- Many believe that the reduced costs for gasoline and fuel oil make overall costs go down; this is not true. Costs of employee medical insurance is skyrocketing, as are food costs.
- Here at Bayview, the needs of our residents are also increasing. The acuity of our residents is so much more complex as our population ages. While there are now more options for home care services for those with fewer care needs, the residents that come to Bayview need to be with us. Their needs are too complex for care at home.
- The continual progress in patient-centered care, including additional quality assurance monitoring and reporting requirements, adds costs that are not reimbursable.

Please help us deliver the high quality care we want to deliver.

On behalf of everyone at Bayview, I thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Letley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.