



*February 11, 2016*

*Written testimony of Erica Roman, Administrator, Northbridge 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 Erica Roman. I am the Administrator at Northbridge Health Care Center in Bridgeport, CT. Northbridge is a 145 bed skilled nursing facility that employs approximately 250 of the hardest working individuals in the healthcare industry.

The employees at Northbridge are proud to work in a skilled nursing facility because they chose to be in a profession that provides care to those who cannot care for themselves. Unfortunately, simply having the desire to help those in need is not enough. At Northbridge, our staff requires a variety of tools to allow them to be successful in their role. Due to the nearly flat funding for the past decade, the ability to provide these tools has become very challenging for the nursing homes in Connecticut.

What I find most concerning is the lack of attention to our skilled nursing facilities on the budget's agenda. Our nursing homes provide the essential care for our elderly and disabled population, and without that care, these people would suffer greatly. The idea that our nursing facility could be cut this session because of our state's ongoing financial troubles is so devastating. It is really beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we want to deliver if we were cut.

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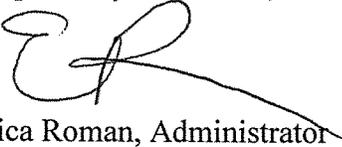


When considering your position on the proposed budget, please keep in mind that it could be you or your family that needs a skilled nursing facility one day. Just like myself, I am sure you would want a facility that employs people who feel valued and have the tools needed to complete their job. Not including skilled nursing facilities in the upcoming budget sends a message that this group of employees are not valued and the hard work they put forth everyday goes unnoticed.

I do want to take a moment to thank those who supported the wage increase for nursing home workers in 2015. Nursing home workers provide a high quality of care, at a very low wage. Please help us show our employees they are valued and provide the tools needed by including skilled nursing facilities in the upcoming budget.

On behalf of everyone at Northbridge Health Care Center, thank you for your valuable time. I hope you take my message into consideration when considering your position concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposed Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Roman, Administrator