



THE
SUMMIT
AT PLANTSVILLE

A Health Care and Rehabilitation Center

www.athenahealthcare.com/summit
Managed by Athena Health Care Systems

261 Summit Street • Plantsville, Connecticut, 06479 • Tel: 860-628-0364 • Fax: 860-628-9166

Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Proposed Budget

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am sorry that I cannot be here in person to deliver this message, due to another commitment. My name is John Kelly and I am the Administrator of The Summit At Plantsville in Plantsville, Connecticut. The Summit is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Southington. We have 150 accommodations, 210 employees and we provide Short Term Rehab, Hospice Care, Behavioral Care, Dementia Care and Long Term Care.

I want to let you know how proud I am of the devoted caregivers here at The Summit who day in and day out attempt to deliver the highest quality of care experience to anyone who comes to our facility. These workers are doing an amazing job, and I am so grateful to them for everything they are doing. We have had great success in reducing hospital re-admission rates, reducing average length of stay, healing residents admitted with decubiti and getting them back home safely.

Making the care great has so many challenges. Making the care that 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 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 so devastating. It is really beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we want to deliver if we were to be 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 work being done every day with wage and benefit increases for our caregivers is so important to our mission to deliver high quality care.



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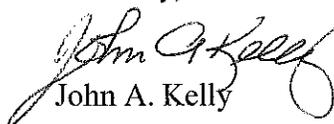
But we are under so many additional pressures beyond the important need to pay our workers a fair wage for the great jobs they are doing. Here are some examples:

- Food costs, medical supplies, pharmacy expense, utilities and just the wear and tear on the facility furnishings and equipment.
- Here at The Summit, the needs of our residents are also increasing. The acuity of our residents is so much more complex as our population ages. There are more options for those with fewer care needs to be home and getting services there, but the residents that come to us need to be with us. Their needs are too complex for proper care at home.

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

On behalf of everyone at The Summit thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



John A. Kelly

Administrator