



# SENIOR CARE<sup>®</sup>

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## OF MIDDLEBURY

February 11, 2016

### Testimony for SENIOR CARE ADULT DAY CARE

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Jean Kannan. I am the Administrator of the Senior Care Adult Day Care Center, in Middlebury.

Senior Care is proud to be among the high quality and cost efficient community care providers that are providing an alternative to nursing home care until or unless it's absolutely needed. Our centers provide a full continuum of care from providing 3 meals a day and personal hygiene to nursing care and recreation. We are open 7 days a week from 7 to 5 and provide the necessary resources for family members to keep their loved ones at home whether they are elderly, suffering from Alzheimer's or are just too clinically fragile to be left alone. Our centers are funded primarily through the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and the Connecticut Statewide Respite Care Program. We are concerned with the Governor's proposed cuts to The Statewide Respite Care Program and how those affected will be negatively impacted.

The Governor's budget proposes cutting the Alzheimer's Respite Program by \$130,830 in addition to the recommended 5.75% reduction to the agency's operating fund. This program provides funds to help families who are caring for a member with dementia. Caregivers desperately need a break from the constant physical and emotional stress of caring for someone with dementia. By having their loved one attend adult day services, families know their loved one is safe, cared for and attending appropriate activities while giving the exhausted caregivers a break to find the strength to carry on.

With the current level of funding, a person with dementia may only be able to attend day care once a week. While this is a huge help to families, it is not enough. If the Respite budget is cut, fewer individuals would be helped and those who are helped may receive fewer services. A person with dementia lives in a world of confusion, at times unable to remember who they are or where they are. It only gets worse as the disease progresses.

Those who have Alzheimer's and other dementias need help. Those with limited assets may simply not have the funds to pay for day services or be reluctant to spend their limited resources to provide for the care they need to continue to live in their own homes or with their families. With the Governor's proposed budget cuts these citizens may not be able to get services they need, when they need them, ultimately ending up in skilled long term care earlier than they would like to be and separated from their families. After quickly spending down all their assets