



Real Possibilities

**Jean Caron, Family Caregiver, Testimony in
Support of the CT Home Care Program for Elders**

Appropriations Committee
Human Services Budget Hearing
February 11, 2016

Good Evening, Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jean Caron and I am a family caregiver for my mom, who receives services under the state funded Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

Here in Connecticut, there are 459,000 friends and neighbors, just like me, spending much of our time performing a great labor of love: caring for an aging parent or loved one. Family caregivers, who are on call 24 hours a day, provide an invaluable resource, safely helping seniors stay at home and out of the hospital or an expensive nursing home.

Most caregivers wouldn't have it any other way; we take care of our loved ones, because that's just what families do.

But, it's a big job, and without the help of the CT Home Care Program for Elders and Alzheimer's respite care, it would be even harder for family caregivers to keep their loved ones out of costly nursing homes.

As a caregiver for my 96-year old Mom, I am experiencing the value of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders firsthand. This program has been a godsend to me and many like me. Four years ago, my mother was in extremely good health and living independently. That was until she had a massive heart attack. She was hospitalized for several weeks. The hospital staff told me to "say goodbye," but she rallied. After being in a nursing home for a month, she was discharged and living independently again. However, this ordeal had left her considerably weaker, needing a walker and cane to get around.

Thankfully the CT Home Care Program for Elders has provided my Mom with a secure living environment, social interaction with various representatives from her

myriad of services and most of all peace of mind for me that she is safe. I believe that at 96 because of these services, she is physically and mentally sharper than she was following her major heart attack.

Today she receives a plethora of services that allow her to continue to live independently in her own home and gives me the peace of mind to know that she is safe.

I urge the legislature and the governor to make the CT Home Care Program and Alzheimer's respite care budget priorities. These programs are cost-effective, prudent investments that honor consumer choice and provide a lifeline for family caregivers. Thank you!