

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
on behalf of the
Connecticut Alliance for Subacute Care
before the
Appropriations Committee

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

February 11, 2016

Good evening Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Martin Sbriglio, RN, NHA. I am Chief Executive Officer at Ryders Health Management with Skilled Nursing Facilities in the communities of Chester, Newington, Waterbury, Waterford, Stratford, and Mystic, CT.

I want to begin by letting you know how proud I am to represent the many devoted caregivers, from our six facilities, who all want what I want---that is to deliver the highest quality care experience to anyone who comes to a Ryders Health facility. And these workers are doing an amazing job, and I am so grateful to them, and proud of them, for everything they are doing.

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 so devastating. It is really beyond my ability to understand how we could deliver the care we want 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 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 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:

- The needs of our residents are also increasing. The acuity of our residents is so much more complex as our population ages. And that there are more options for those with fewer care needs to be home and getting services there. But the residents that come to one of our Ryders Health facilities need to be with us. The needs are too complex for care at home.

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

On behalf of everyone at Ryders Health Management, thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.