

March 8, 2016

General Law Committee

RE: **House Bill #5368—An Act Concerning Homemaker Services and Homemaker Companion Agencies**

My name is Andrew Clifford, owner of Home Instead Senior Care, an employee-based provider of non-medical home care services in New Haven County since 2002. **I would like to express my support for House Bill #5368.**

As a relatively new industry, non-medical home care has seen a surge in providers, each offering a similar scope of service such as companionship, light housekeeping, incidental transportation, meal preparation and errands. These services are all designed to keep seniors safe and independent in their own homes.

With the variety of service providers comes two distinct operational models—employee-based agencies and registries. Registries match up independent contactors with clients. As such, there are no taxes withheld or matched, no Workers' Compensation insurance, and no Social Security or Medicare contributions made on behalf of the worker. This puts both employees and consumers in a vulnerable position.

House Bill #5368 designates homemaker-companion agencies, registries and homemaker-home health agencies as the employer of all individuals providing homemaker-companion services for the purposes of unemployment compensation, wages and Workers' Compensation insurance.

The passing of House Bill #5368 will accomplish the following:

- Provide protections for both workers and consumers
- Generate increased revenue for the state in the form of payroll taxes and unemployment benefit contributions
- Create consistency with state administered eldercare programs that contract only with employee-based agencies
- Create consistency with state law and policy on worker misclassification

Thank you for your consideration and support of House Bill #5368.

Sincerely,

Andrew Clifford, Owner
Home Instead Senior Care
1733 Whitney Avenue • Hamden, CT • 06517
75 New Haven Avenue • Milford, CT • 06460