



Home Care Association of America

Connecticut

**House Bill 7071, An Act Providing an Income Tax Deduction for Individuals Caring for Elderly Persons, Children or Disabled Persons.
Aging Committee
February 19, 2019**

The Home Care Association of America was founded on the principle that quality home care has one model of care: to employ, train, monitor and supervise caregivers; create a plan of care for the client; and work toward a safe and secure environment for the person at home. Members of Home Care Association of America-Connecticut (HCAOA Connecticut) employ several thousand caregivers providing quality care to thousands of elderly consumers across the state.

House Bill 7071 would provide financial relief for certain caregiver-taxpayers by providing an income tax deduction for expenses paid to care for any relative 70 years of age or older for the cost of full-time home health care, including the cost of medical supplies and in-home services provided by homemaker-home health aides and other home health care agency providers.

HCAOA Connecticut asks that the committee **amend the bill** to include the cost of live-in homemaker and companion services. Home care agencies provide similar, non-medical home care services to elderly and disabled persons that should also qualify for the income tax deduction. The tax deduction would help make home care more affordable for seniors and their families and provide relief to taxpayers.

Home care agencies help fulfill a similar public policy provided by home health care agency providers: non-medical caregivers provide essential care to and help elderly and disabled persons live in their own homes and keep them out of nursing homes, which would increase costs to the state. Private-pay home care fills a critical gap for seniors between hospital stays, nursing home care, and care provided by family members and loved ones. By providing a tax deduction to non-medical home caregivers, the state would recognize the value of the service, encourage greater participation and provide necessary tax relief to families paying for the service.

Elderly Americans receiving home care generally need fewer trips to doctors and hospitals, reducing overall health care costs while also creating jobs in the growing home care sector. In 2008 alone, the U.S. saved as much as \$25 billion in hospital costs due to the growth of home care services over the previous decade, according to *The Value of Home Care*, a report by Home Care Association of America and the Global Coalition on Aging.

Professional caregivers enable seniors to enjoy independent living longer in their own homes by:

- preventing falls and other injuries;
- keeping seniors healthy by ensuring medications are taken and regimes are followed and helping to prepare nutritious meals and maintain a healthy, balanced diet;
- providing companionship and personalized care; and
- helping seniors remain engaged and connected.

Home care services are important to the health and well-being of seniors, and families incur similar costs associated with non-medical home care that should also be deductible from income taxes.

Please contact Chaim Gewirtzman, chairman, HCAOA Connecticut, (203) 910-3190, with any questions or for additional information.