Testimony of Kal Patel, President of the Association of Residential Care Homes 
Administrator and Owner of Meadowbrook Manor

H.B. No. 7148 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNium ENDING 
JUNE THIRTIETH, 2021, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR. 
Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services Public Hearing, March 5, 2019 
Concerning 
Department of Social Services Budget- Residential Care Home Funding 

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Representative Lavielle, Senator Flexer, 
Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services. My name is Kal Patel and I am the president of the Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes 
(CARCH) and I am also the administrator of Meadowbrook Manor in Essex, CT.

Residential care homes serve some of the most vulnerable residents in the state including residents with 
mental health diagnoses substance abuse challenges, the elderly and those with health problems 
although we are not medical facilities. Over the last decade, our rates have been consistently capped 
and even in years when we have seen increases, they have been limited to a percent or two - failing to 
keep up with inflation.

At Meadowbrook Manor, we provide residence with 24-hour staff supervision, medication administration, 
housekeeping, breakfast, lunch, dinner, recreation activities and physical plant maintenance to 25 
residents for approximately $95 per day total per resident. The sad truth here is the amount it costs to 
care for our residents (utilities, employment cost, food, property upkeep and insurance) have gone up 
over the past few years but our rate has remained almost the same $95 per day.

After years of being flat funded, residential care homes face a critical breaking point. A vast majority of 
our cost is critical. Amongst the most critical is the cost of our employees. Our employees are tasked with 
getting medication-certified to administer medications, they are required to clean bathrooms, cook, serve 
meals, and perform laundry just to name a few of their daily duties.

These tasks are provided by only one or two employees per 8-hour shift for less than $15 per hour. We 
need the ability to pay them more not only to compete with the proposed increase in the minimum wage 
but because we need the ability to recruit employees into this important field of service. The cost of food, 
electricity, heating oil and insurance can’t be negotiated lower so shifting any potential savings to 
employees is not an option. Most of our funding is from residents on State Supplement so we have the 
ability to raise revenue by shifting to private pay residents. Our only option is to get relief in our rates.

I urge the committee to acknowledge the impact of the budget on residential care homes, their 
employees, and some of Connecticut’s most vulnerable residents and unfreeze the cap on residential 
care home rates as proposed in the Governor’s budget.

Respectfully Submitted

Kal Patel Meadowbrook Manor