



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE KATHLEEN M. McCARTY
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RANKING MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 27, 2020 * 11:00am *1C

Dear Chairmen Slap and Serra, Ranking Members Kelly and Wilson, and distinguished members of the Aging Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to address you today in support of Raised House Bill 5204 **AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION FOR NONAMBULATORY NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**. First, I would like to thank the Aging Committee for raising this bill. With the healthcare industry moving more and more towards personalized care in the home care setting, it is important to keep in mind the thousands upon thousands of persons who are residing in nursing homes.

It is imperative that in meeting the needs of nonambulatory nursing home residents that we continue to find multiple ways to provide them with the highest possible care and quality of life. Nursing home residents who are nonambulatory are confined to nursing homes without any hope of visiting their loved ones for social visits.

Nonambulatory nursing home residents need and deserve non-emergency medical transportation that is affordable and social in nature. This small freedom of social visits to family members homes would allow the nonambulatory nursing home residents to maintain, and more than likely improve, their social and emotional well-being.

Raised House Bill 5204 would require nursing homes as defined in Section 19a-490 of the General Statutes that are equipped with vehicles capable of transporting nonambulatory residents to transport them under certain conditions to the homes of their family members.

Raised House Bill 5204 is very reasonable in that social transportation would be provided to the nonambulatory resident provided that such family members live in the same municipality as the nursing home (line, 6) such transportation is approved by a physician or physician's assistant (line 7) no nursing home would be required to provide such transportation more than twice a week (line 9) and the cost to the resident or resident's family may not exceed the nursing home's costs of providing the transportation.

While it is true that non-emergency medical transportation is available to all Medicaid recipients including nursing home residents, such transportation is not available for social visits.

Thank you again for raising House Bill 5204 that will protect the health, safety, social well-being, and rights of the nonambulatory residents residing in nursing homes. I encourage the Aging Committee to support House Bill 5204. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen M. McCarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathleen M. McCarty
State Representative, 38th District
Waterford, Montville