

March 10, 2020

Senate Bill 409, An Act Concerning Homemaker and Companion Services

Dear members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As the director of South Cross Inc., a Homemaker Companion Agency in Berlin, CT (DCP registration #HCA129), I would like to provide testimony in support of SB409. South Cross Inc. specializes in providing homecare services to elderly and disabled in the greater Hartford area 24/7 days a week.

It is extremely important for each agency to protect clients when sending caregivers to clients' home. Most Home Care clients are vulnerable and therefore need agencies to ensure that providing services will be done by caregivers who have been properly screened. Consequently, it is the agencies' duty to make sure that clients will not be taking advantage of financially, physically or otherwise by any caregiver.

As a trustful and reputable agency, South Cross Inc. has always gone beyond mandatory screening process of any applicant. In addition to background checks and social security checks, South Cross Inc. also checks for INS status, Pre-employment drug screening, Sexual Offender registry, Department of Motor vehicles, and previous employment references. Not doing these checks would be a disservice to our clients and families who are dependent on South Cross Inc. to give them peace of mind.

As a result, I am writing on behalf of South Cross Inc. in support of SB 409.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at fatimabpalais@south-cross.com or at my office 860-259-5070. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fatima Baptista-Palais

Fatima Baptista-Palais, BS, MS, CDP
Director
South Cross Inc.