

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5096

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Title: RESPITE PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/3/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/18/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is intended to increase access to the Alzheimer's disease respite program. Unpaid family caregivers are crucial to providing long-term care, which can be a source of financial strain. The Alzheimer's disease respite program expands eligibility to individuals that need financial assistance and respite care services.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Aging and Disability Services

The Commissioner expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that if the program eligibility is expanded without any additional appropriation, the funding available to serve our low-income clients will decrease. The people whose resources are limited and who are the greatest users of this program will be negatively affected.

AARP of Connecticut

AARP expressed support to this bill. The organization mentioned that the respite program would provide financial relief to family caregivers, however, without an increase in funding, expanding eligibility would result in reduced services.

Steven Hernandez, Executive Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity

The Executive Director expressed support to this bill. In Connecticut, its estimated that family and friends provide an estimated \$2.5 billion in unpaid care to individuals living with Alzheimer's. He mentioned that the state's aging population needs increasing services for people with Alzheimer's.

Mag Morelli, President, Leading Age Connecticut

The President expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that funding for the respite program is capped and if the eligibility is expanded without an increase in funding, then current recipients will receive less funding for services.

Mike Sopchak, Volunteer, AARP

The Volunteer expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that the respite program should provide additional funding to protect current beneficiaries and expand services to newly eligible families.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Tony Hwang, 28th Assembly District

The Senator expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that by advancing the amount of current respite and homecare programs it would allow aging residents to stay within their communities and save the state money.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

**Reported by: Shelby Michelle Williams
Clerk: Gaia McDermott**

Date: 03/06/2020