

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-83

AN ACT REDUCING PARTICIPANT COSTS AND EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY  
**Title:** FOR THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY.

**Vote Date:** 3/3/2020

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/18/2020

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill is intended to expand eligibility for the state- funded portion of the Connecticut Home-Care program for the elderly and reduce cost to participants. It would create an asset level for individuals dependent upon marital status and income to provide elderly persons with access to medical and non-medical services. When a person can not gain access to Category 1 or 2 CHCPE services, they are at an increased risk to experience injury or nursing home placement.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **AARP of Connecticut**

AARP of Connecticut expressed support to this bill. The organization mentioned that the state funded portion of CHCPE does place a cap on assets. The organization urges to raise the asset limit to expand accessibility to more individuals that will help keep seniors in their homes and avoid nursing home placement.

### **Jean Mills Aranha, Managing Attorney, Stamford Office of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.**

The Managing Attorney expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that lowering the co-pay from 9% to 7% and slightly increasing asset limits will provide elders with financial security to maintain their homes, receive home-care services, and pay their bills.

**Jean Caron, Volunteer, AARP of Connecticut**

AARP Volunteer expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that all levels of CHCPE program are crucial to seniors and caregiving families. By 2030, more than one out of four state residents will be 60 or older. She urges that it is crucial to start investing in aging matters and facilities like CT Home -Care.

**Connecticut Department of Social Services**

The department of Social Services expressed opposition to this bill. The department has mentioned that the program is state funded and receives no federal match on expenditures. As a result, the fiscal impact to the state is projected at over \$3 million when annualized.

**Kathleen Flaherty, Executive Director, CT Legal Rights Project, Inc.**

The Executive Director expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that the state should do what it can to reduce financial burden on spouses of nursing home residents. By providing an additional \$12 per month to the \$60 personal needs allowance, it would allow someone to afford personal care items.

**Mag Morelli, President, Leading Age Connecticut**

The President has expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that priority should be placed on securing adequate funding for elderly who are currently enrolled so that they can continue to receive services and remain in the community.

**Tracy Wodatch, President & CEO, The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home**

President & CEO has expressed support to this bill. The president mentioned that in-home care services and supportive non-licensed home care services should be expanded.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None Expressed.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None Expressed.

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

**Date: 03/02/2020**