

Testimony of Ron Alger
Administrator, Shailerville Manor LLC

Re: H.B. No. 6446 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES.

Human Services Committee Public Hearing, March 4, 2021

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Berthel, Representative Case and Members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony against Section 8 of House Bill 6446- An Act Concerning the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Human Services, which would establish a rate cap on residential care homes.

My name is Ron Alger and I am the Administrator at Shailerville Manor located in Haddam. I am here today to raise concerns with the Governor's budget and the rate cap related to residential care homes and express the strong need for a rate increase for residential care homes throughout the state.

We are a Residential Care Home with 15 beds. We house compromised individuals with many different needs. We are responsible for the care and safety of our residents. Our rate has been frozen for many years now. Costs of foods, household supplies, insurances, utilities have soared at least 20% over the last couple of years. We also have state requirements that need to be met through inspections that we cannot financially meet.

The minimum wage is also increasing. With that being said meeting salary needs becoming impossible. If minimum wage is \$15 per hour our employees are worth more. They have the responsibility of maintaining the safety and well being of the residents we house. They cook, clean, supervise medications and deal in emergency situations when needed for people who are compromised. Financially we are unable to pay to keep the level of employees we have now and will begin losing them to jobs that require less responsibility.

During times of covid we are also finding it challenging to hire new employees. I believe it to be that people can stay home and make more money than they would at work. I, as the administrator have been working many extra differ shifts as of recently. I've been working without pay at least 12 hrs per week extra for a time now. Mostly due to the inability to find new employees.

We- Our employees and especially our residents deserve better. We need your help.

Regards

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