

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6469

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HOME-CARE PROGRAM FOR

Title: THE ELDERLY.

Vote Date: 3/9/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/23/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to remove the 9% monthly copay currently charged to non-Medicaid eligible individuals who participate in the state-funded portion of the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE). This bill intends to remove financial barriers for individuals eligible for this program, thereby encouraging affordability and access.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Deidre S. Gifford, Commissioner, Department of Social Services, opposes this bill for several reasons. The first is: there is no cap on the income an individual may have to qualify for Category 1 and 2 under CHCPE, only an asset test. The Department recognizes the potential barrier the co-payment creates for those looking to join the program but comments that “these individuals do have more resources than Medicaid members.” She notes that the cost-share offsets the overall cost of the program by approximately \$2 million annually. Dr. Gifford added that there is no funding in the Governor’s budget to replace this revenue.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Anna Doroghazi, AARP Connecticut, supports this bill as it improves access for older adults to age safely in their homes. She notes that this option is preferred by a majority of older adults. Ms. Doroghazi noted that programs like Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) are less costly than providing care in an institutional setting. CHCPE allows the

elderly population to receive medical and non-medical support in their homes, which lightens the workload placed on family caregivers who are overloaded with responsibilities.

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut, supports this bill as it provides many older adults access to services earlier, before they have exhausted all of their assets. Removing co-pay requirements removes a potential barrier to receiving care. Ms. Morelli highlighted that this bill ensures choice for those seeking long term services and supports.

Tracy Wodatch, President and CEO, The Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, supports this bill as it “will encourage more eligible elders to apply and receive much needed long-term services and supports in their setting of choice... their own home.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There are no sources of opposition for this bill.

Reported by: Gianna Vollano

Date: March 21, 2021