

**Maggie Goodwin resident of West Haven Ct and member of NASW CT and board of  
NOW CT Testimony on S.B. 1030: An Act Concerning Long-Term Care Facilities  
Public Health Committee**

**The current ratio of social workers to residents of nursing homes in CT is 120 residents to 1 social worker.** This has been painfully inadequate for years and during the pandemic was impossible and tragic. There needs to be more parity between mental health needs and physical needs in the nursing home regulations. It is time to address the need for social services and mental health support for the residents of nursing homes and rehab facilities in Ct. **This is a parity issue and needs to be corrected and the ratio of social workers to patients needs to drastically improved NOW.**

There is much work to do as we heal and recover from the covid crisis. Many the deaths and critical illness during the pandemic were residents of long-term care facilities with **only 1 social worker for every 120 residents.** This lack of social work services increased the pain and suffering of residents and family members. As we heal and move forward, please increase the number of social workers required in all Ct nursing homes.

NOTE:I freely speculate that if **residents of nursing homes** were able to testify on this requested change, they would say that there is an **overwhelming need** for more social workers in their facility to help them with their social service and mental health needs as well as to facilitate communication and contact with their loved ones. I also freely speculate **every staff person** in those same facilities would ask you for more social workers to help them with the patients' emotional needs daily. All these health care professionals in our nursing homes and long-term care facilities have done the **impossible** this year and what **hurts their hearts is not what they did but what they could not do particularly to meet the emotional needs of their residents and their families.** As a member of National Organization for Women Ct board, I would point out also that the **majority of both residents and staff in these facilities are CT WOMEN.**

Thank you for your attention to this particularly important issue and I ask for your help for these CT residents and ask you to direct the **increase in the number of social workers in nursing homes.**

**Please ask yourself IF NOT NOW, WHEN?**

**Give these Women of CT a little more help NOW.**

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.**

NOTE: I freely speculate that if residents of nursing homes were able to testify on this requested change, they would testify that there is an overwhelming need for more social workers in their facility to help them with their mental health and social services needs as well as to facilitate communication and contact with their loved ones. I also speculate that every staff person in those same facilities would ask you for more social workers to help them with patient care. All these health care workers have done the impossible this year and they realize that the emotional needs

Please Help and vote to have more social workers in nursing homes in CT NOW. If not now during recovery from a pandemic WHEN.