



February 28, 2025

Written Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) before the Aging Committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL), a trade association of skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities, my name is Matthew Barrett, the association's President and CEO. Thank for this opportunity to present testimony **in opposition** to **H.B. No. 6985 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME ABANDONMENT.**

There are already substantial federal and state laws in place which protect residents against abandonment, violation of which carries significant monetary and administrative penalties, including possible criminal liability. Existing nursing home federal and state statutes and regulations already set forth detailed requirements to ensure that residents can only be transferred or discharged under limited circumstances and only once the facility has documented a safe discharge plan, provided written notice to residents, families and representatives, including the LTCOP, and allowed the resident the opportunity to appeal the transfer or discharge. There are also strict federal and state laws prohibiting nursing homes from refusing to readmit a resident from the hospital except under extremely limited circumstances. Both state and federal statutes and regulations already provide for strict penalties for abuse, neglect, mistreatment or exploitation of a nursing home resident. Violation of any of the above requirements already carry potential federal fines of up to \$25,000 per day depending on the severity of the incident and state penalties of up to \$20,000 per incident for improper discharges or abuse/neglect or \$8500 per day for failures to readmit from the hospital. Such violations routinely result in imposition of both federal and state fines for the same conduct in addition to other significant enforcement remedies. Additionally, resident neglect or abuse carry potential criminal liability for employees, owners and officers of nursing homes.

Finally, the definition of "abandon" for purposes of the bill is vague and ambiguous, using such terms as "willfully forsake" and "forego, withdraw or neglect duties and obligations." To the extent the definition can be correctly interpreted, it seems likely that any such conduct would already be covered under definitions of neglect or mistreatment.

For additional information on this testimony, please contact Matthew Barrett, President and CEO of CAHCF/CCAL, at mbarrett@cahcf.org.