



**March 6, 2025**

**Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL):**

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. 7105 AN ACT CONCERNING FORENSIC AUDITS CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

H.B. 7105 significantly expands the Department of Social Services' audit authorities to include forensic audits of licensed residential facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, residential care homes and skilled nursing homes. We are not aware that the state has forensic audit authorities, or is seeking such authority, related to any other health care providers as is proposed here. The bill defines "forensic audit" as an examination of financial records for information or evidence that may be used to determine compliance with applicable law. Further, among other things, the bill authorizes DSS to hold this limited group of providers liable for the costs of a forensic audits up to \$100,000, while no other providers are even subject to this new forensic audit authority.

We agree that the integrity of our health care system is undermined when impropriety, malfeasance or Medicaid fraud is found. However, we believe the agency has powerful authorities under existing law that should be fully evaluated by the Human Services Committee before these authorities are significantly expanded. For example, subsection (k) of the underlying law that is proposed to be amended in H.B. 7105 now authorizes the Department:

“...to conduct any inquiry, investigation or hearing under the provisions of this section,