



February 23, 2026

Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center for Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) in opposition to H.B. No. 5242 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO ALLOW TERMINALLY ILL QUALIFYING PATIENTS TO USE CANNABIS.

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, appreciate this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning H.B. No. 5242 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO ALLOW TERMINALLY ILL QUALIFYING PATIENTS TO USE CANNABIS.

CAHCF/CCAL is opposed as compliance would place providers in a very difficult and untenable situation of trying to navigate conflicting federal and state laws.

The proposed bill requires nursing homes and hospitals to allow terminally patients to use cannabis in the facility in violation of federal law. Cannabis is classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance, which is illegal under federal law (21 U.S.C.A. § 812). Nursing homes must be certified under federal law to participate in, and receive funding through, the Medicare and Medicaid programs and those certifications are contingent upon compliance with federal laws. Moreover, the bill would not supersede federal law and would not prevent or protect nursing homes and hospitals against federal law enforcement for violations of existing laws which make cannabis illegal, placing nursing homes at significant risk and placing them in the untenable position of trying to navigate compliance with conflicting federal and state laws.

Finally, all treatments and medications provided to nursing home patients must be under a physician order. As physicians are also prohibited from prescribing cannabis under federal law, nursing home staff will be without experience or medical oversight/guidance in identifying,

responding to, or avoiding potential negative interactions, side effects or the like for residents who take cannabis.

CAHCF/CCAL is opposed for these reasons.

Thank you.

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