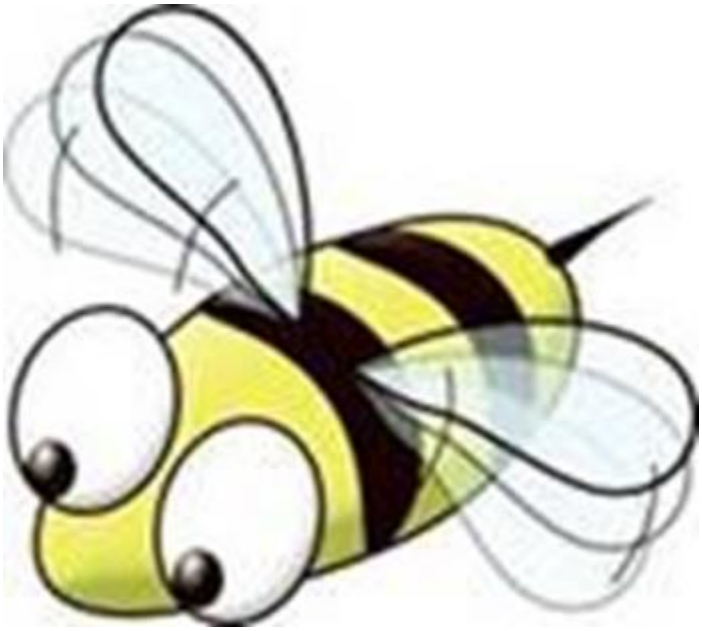
CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living



Legislative Alert

February 13, 2026

It's the BUZZ-bee! Please pay close attention!

We need your immediate support. The Public Hearing on the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027 will be held before the Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, starting at 2:00 p.m. This is a critical opportunity to make our voices heard.

We need **EVERY FACILITY** to submit written Testimony!, and we need it **ASAP, but no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, February 17th.** Sample testimony is currently available on the Grassroots page of our website at **www.cahcf.org/legislative/public-acts/** in MS Word format and is attached.

Prepare Your Testimony:

- We have attached the sample testimony, please personalize your

testimony for your facility, **proofread it carefully.** Remove all brackets, **ensure there is no red text**, and save the final version to your documents.

- Print the testimony on your facility's letterhead.
- Scan the completed document as a PDF and save it to your files.

To Submit Your Testimony:

- Submit pdf file by clicking on this link**:** **https://www.cga.ct.gov/aspx/CGATestimonySub/CGAtestimonysubmission.aspx?comm_code=app**
- **Enter your First Name, Last Name, Title, and Organization**
- **Select the Hearing Date and Time from the drop-down menu:** 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM.
- **When you select the Hearing Date and Time, the Bill Number(s) should automatically be populated with the following:** HB05032 – AA Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027
- **Supports or Opposes –** Select General Comments
- **How do I want to submit my testimony?:** Select **Upload a File I select**, and then **Choose File**
- **Check the box next to** "I understand this testimony will be publicly posted on this website.
- **Check the Box** "I'm not a robot"
- **Click on Submit Testimony**

Register to Testify:

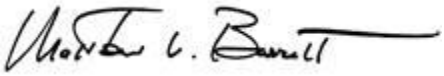
We want to **encourage as many of you** as possible to **testify via Zoom on Wednesday, February 18th beginning at 2:00 p.m.** Please click on this link to register https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J6q4-XBTR02JW3An-imumg#/registration - you can choose to register to testify in person or via Zoom

Registration will close on Thursday, February 17 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be listed in a randomized order and posted on the Appropriations Committee website on Thursday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony.

Once you register, please advise Adriana (**amanning@cahcf.org**). Please note: If you registered to testify remotely you will receive an email from the Appropriations Committee with the link to testify. Please check your spam/junk folder.

Remember…, we need written testimony from EVERYONE AND (in addition) people willing to give Zoom or in-person testimony. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Thank you,



Matthew V. Barrett
President/CEO

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, Inc.
Connecticut Center for Assisting Living
213 Court Street, Suite 202
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: (860) 290-9424
Fax: (860) 290-9478
www.cahcf.org

PRIVILEDGED CAHCF/CCAL MEMBER COMMUNICATION – For CAHCF/CCAL Members ONLY.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail may contain confidential information. If you believe that you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us by reply e-mail at your earliest opportunity and then DELETE the original and reply e-mail. Thank you.

[Your Nursing Home letterhead]

February 18, 2026

Written testimony of [name of testifier], [title, ex. Administrator, Chief Operating Officer], [name of facility, …Nursing and Rehabilitation Center] Concerning Skilled Nursing Facility Funding For SFY 2027

Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is [name]. I am [title, ex. Administrator, Chief Operating Officer] at [name of facility, Nursing and Rehabilitation] in [town], Connecticut. [Name of Facility] has been providing nursing home care in our community for [ ] years. We are a [number of beds] nursing home, and we have [number of employees] employees working at our facility, and we are members of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF).

Our main message to you is simply please don't forget the needs of our nursing home as you develop this year's adjustments to the Connecticut state budget.

Our nursing home is challenged in delivering the highest quality of care we can for increasing numbers of residents on the other side of the Covid-19 public health emergency. We are almost full with a [number]% occupancy percentage. But keeping up with the higher costs of serving so many more residents is our most significant challenge.

Inflation Adjustment is Needed in the Rates. Our nursing has lost ground against inflation. Reflecting these higher costs with an uncapped inflation adjustment is essential for us to deliver high quality care to increasingly more Connecticut residents.]. Here are the examples of what is happening [cite main examples of inflation, such as utilities, home heating oil, food---make it real---say what you were paying last year and say what those costs are now].

Higher Acuity Residents. Our nursing home is now serving residents with more complex health care needs, but because of artificial caps in the Medicaid acuity payment system we are not being fully reimbursed for the higher costs of these residents.

Residents With Behavioral Health Needs. The more complex resident we are serving in increasing numbers also have higher behavioral health needs, and this is not reflected in the rates.

Nursing Home Workforce. We are grateful that the Connecticut General Assembly has recognized with staff wage and benefit enhancements that paying higher wages for nursing home staff is needed to retain and recruit badly needed staff, but these higher payments appropriately pass directly through to the employees.

This is why an inflation adjustment, uncapped acuity-based payments and recognizing the behavioral health needs of our residents remain our most significant challenges, and why more funding in the Connecticut budget is needed to address these significant issues as our nursing home serve residents in ever increasing numbers.