

CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living

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Written testimony of Matthew V. Barrett, President/CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) Concerning S.B. No. 1079 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME FACILITY MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS.

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the distinguished members of the Human Service Committee. My name is Matthew V. Barrett, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's one hundred and fifty-three member trade association of skilled nursing facilities and rehabilitation centers. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony concerning S.B. No. 1079 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOME FACILITY MINIMUM STAFFING LEVELS.

CAHCF is in agreement that legislation can and should be adopted this session to increase the existing minimum staffing requirements. We agree that the Public Health Code (PHC) is outdated and overdue for an update in this regard. For example, the PHC now only requires a minimum of one and nine-tenths hours per patient for a skilled nursing facility. S.B. 1079 would increase the minimum staffing ratio to not less than two and three-tenths nursing staff hours per resident. CAHCF favors maintaining the nursing home staff definitions now included in the PHC.

Importantly, the bill includes a provision that that if any nursing home facility experiences increased costs or expenditures to comply with a higher standard, the Department of Social Services must provide Medicaid reimbursement associated with these new costs.

Finally, CAHCF/CCAL recommends that any new reporting requirements be consistent with existing federal CMS Payroll Based Journal requirements in the interest of efficiency and to assure that scarce nursing home resources remain focused on patient care, rather than additional administrative reporting. It should be noted that nursing homes now provide a daily manual report on staffing ratios on site at the facility. Adhering to these requirements and existing definitions would be the best approach to monitor a true comparison to the existing ratio with the higher ratio recommended in the bill.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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