



Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living

February 23, 2021

Written testimony of Matthew V. Barrett, President/CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities and the Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) on S.B. No. 418 (COMM) AN ACT INCREASING THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZING A DEDUCTION FOR CONSERVATOR EXPENSES FROM THE AMOUNT OF INCOME A MEDICAID RECIPIENT APPLIES TO THE COST OF CARE.

Good morning Senator Slap, Representative Phipps, and to the distinguished members of the Aging Committee. My name is Matt Barrett. I am the President and CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF), our state's trade association and advocacy organization of one-hundred and sixty skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 418 (COMM) AN ACT INCREASING THE PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS AND AUTHORIZING A DEDUCTION FOR CONSERVATOR EXPENSES FROM THE AMOUNT OF INCOME A MEDICAID RECIPIENT APPLIES TO THE COST OF CARE.

CAHCF/CCAL supports Sections 1 and 2 of the bill that would provide a long overdue increase of the nursing home resident personal needs allowance from \$60 to 72.65.

Section 3 of the bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend the Medicaid state plan by December 31, 2021, to permit the deduction of certain conservator expenses when calculating a Medicaid-eligible nursing home resident's applied income. In general, nursing home residents must spend any income they have on their care---this contribution is referred to as the "applied income". It is most commonly a resident's social security income. This bill alters the applied income arrangement by requiring that a deduction of the enumerated conservation expenses be deducted from the applied income amount. The practical effect of these deductions would be to reduce the amount of applied income going toward the cost of nursing home care for Medicaid recipients. Consequently, the Medicaid portion of the payment would increase to the nursing home as the applied income is reduced in an equal amount. Otherwise, the nursing home would be uncompensated for the cost of care when such conservator expenses are deducted from the applied income. To assure that the Medicaid payment to the nursing home is increased as the applied income is reduced, which is the apparent intended outcome of the bill, CAHCF requests that the language of the bill be amended as follows: On line 36, after "are permissible under federal law." insert "Whenever such conservator fees and other expenses are deducted from the applied income, the Medicaid

payment to the nursing home shall be increased in an amount equal to the reduced applied income.”

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify on the bill as drafted. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

For additional information, contact: Matthew V. Barrett, mbarrett@cahcf.org or 860-290-9424.