

# CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities  
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living

March 8, 2022

**Written testimony of Matt Barrett, President and CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities and the Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) concerning H.B. No. 5311 (RAISED) AN ACT ENCOURAGING SOCIALIZATION FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITS WITH FAMILIES.**

Good morning Miller, Representative Garibay 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 testify in support of H.B. No. 5311 (RAISED) AN ACT ENCOURAGING SOCIALIZATION FOR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITS WITH FAMILIES.

H.B. No. 5311 would allow nursing homes, with available vehicles equipped to transport non-ambulatory residents, to provide nonemergency transportation of non-ambulatory residents to the homes of family members. The bill further provides that the transportation could be prior authorized within five days of the visit, when the family visits are in the same municipality as the nursing home, and when the transportation is approved by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse. The proposed legislation also appropriately establishes a funding mechanism in the form of a state grant program under the Department of Social Services for any nursing home wishing to provide nonemergency transportation for family visits of this nature.

As background, there are no limitations under the law or practices governing nursing homes that today would cause a nursing home to prevent family visits of residents when arranged by family members and where the costs are addressed by the family or the resident. Such family visits are routinely provided today. Payment is arranged between the transportation provider and the family or resident in the current practice. In addition, we see such visits as fully consistent with a nursing home resident's rights as a member of the nursing home community.

The proposed grant program in the legislation is an important provision given that transportation unrelated to a medical issue is not part of the reimbursement structures now in place for nursing homes under the various payer sources, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. Families must now arrange and privately pay for such visits. By establishing a grant program, this bill may provide new opportunities for families to arrange these important home visits.

*For additional information, contact: Matthew V. Barrett, [mbarrett@cahcf.org](mailto:mbarrett@cahcf.org) or 860-290-9424.*