

CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living

March 8, 2022

Written testimony of Matt Barrett, President/CEO of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities and the Connecticut Center For Assisted Living (CAHCF/CCAL) concerning S.B. No. 286 AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES FOR MANDATORY REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.

Senator 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), a state trade association and advocacy organization of one-hundred and sixty skilled nursing facilities and assisted living communities. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning S.B. No. 286 AN ACT CONCERNING DEADLINES FOR MANDATORY REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ELDER ABUSE AND PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.

S.B. No. 286 would significantly reduce the timeframe when a mandatory reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any elderly person has been abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned, or is in a condition that is the result of such abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment, or is in need of protective services, from seventy hours to twelve hours after such suspicion or belief arose, report such information or cause a report to be made in any reasonable manner to the Commissioner of Social Services or to the person or persons designated by the commissioner to receive such reports. In the nursing home environment, twelve hours would not be a sufficient amount of time to conduct required investigations in many instances and therefore we must oppose this provision.

There are existing federal and state regulations that already require nursing homes to report all allegations and instances of abuse, neglect, mistreatment and misappropriation, (including exploitation) to the Connecticut Department of Public Health within two hours or "immediately," but no later than 24 hours," depending on the nature of the alleged conduct. This statute is a reporting requirement for individuals, as opposed to the facility, and therefore provides only for reporting where there is "reasonable cause to suspect or believe" that

abuse, neglect has occurred. Meeting this reasonable cause standard requires a facility investigation and twelve hours would be an insufficient amount of time for this purpose.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit written testimony on the bill as drafted.

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