

To Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, esteemed members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committee,

Testimony in response to **the Human Services Sub-Committee, State Agency Budget Presentation –HR5005**

Our State developed the **Connecticut Home Care Programs (CHCP)** to provide community based services to low-income aging older adults with chronic conditions, helping them to continue to live in their homes and reduce the risk of more costly long term care placement. Although the clients of the CT Home Care Program are medically frail, "at nursing home level of care", they wish to be and are cared for by community based providers. By securing care in the community, the Program has saved the State millions of dollars. The Program can continue to save the State millions of dollars if there are viable providers in the community such as Adult Day Services, Meals on Wheels, Home Health and Senior Companions to provide the care needed.

As the Executive Director of ElderHouse, a not-for-profit Adult Day Center in Norwalk, for 27 years, our clientele is older and frailer than ever before. The goal to keep them from institutional placement is more challenging than ever. As a medical model adult day center, ElderHouse receives \$73.06 per day for clients enrolled in the CHCP program to provide: door to door transportation, on-site nursing, therapeutic recreation, noon time meals, personal care services (including showers), caregiver support and up to 9 hours of daily supervision. This is a formula that is not sustainable.

Eight adult day centers in Connecticut closed in the past five years. The variance between cost and CHCP reimbursement is ineffective in maintaining a quality center. Most recently, the tight labor market along with the increase in

minimum wage have resulted in further eroding the viability of day centers in our State.

In October 2019, CT Home Care Program Providers received a 1% increase in the reimbursement rate in response to a \$1.00 increase in the minimum wage. The minimum wage at adult day applies to all minimum wage workers. This could include drivers, health aides, companions, kitchen aides. Therefore the total hourly increased payout far exceeds the 1% (or 73cents) increase in reimbursement.

Please advocate for an 8% increase in the CHCP reimbursement rates for adult day services.

This testimony is submitted by  
Denise L Cesareo, Executive Director of ElderHouse, on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Adult Day Services, a membership organization representing 90% of adult day centers in Connecticut and dedicated to the promotion of adult day health services as a high quality community-based option in the continuum of long term care.

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