



February 20, 2020

*Written testimony of Patrick Townsend Center Executive Director, Madison House Center  
Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY2020 and FY 2021 Proposed Budget*

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Patrick Townsend and I am the Center Executive Director at Madison House in Madison, Connecticut. Madison House has been providing Skilled Nursing Care in our community for over twenty- five years. We are an 89 bed Skilled Nursing Facility and we have 75 employees working at our center.

I want to begin by thanking the Appropriations Committee for supporting increases in last session's budget for nursing home wages and benefit increases for our employees. Recruiting and retaining workers in Connecticut's very competitive labor market remains one of our major challenges. Having an ample supply of workers to meet the needs of nursing home residents with increasing care needs on all shifts will be even more challenging as Connecticut minimum wage continue to rise. Please know these new wage enhancement dollars will help in this on-going struggle to assure quality care in our Skilled Nursing Facility.

The care givers at Madison House range from Licensed Nurses to Housekeepers. Each member of the staff plays an important role in the successful care of our residents. These staff members do a wonderful job and I am grateful as well as proud of all of them. With our dedicated staff, Madison House has been developing a Secure Unit to focus on the very fragile segment of our population with Dementia.

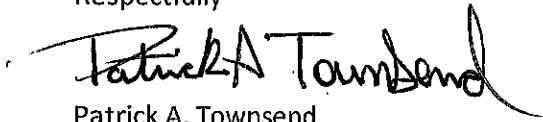
The Major change in Medicaid reimbursement "Case Mix" has the potential to put our Skilled Nursing at financial risk. While we agree with Case Mix and how it reimburses nursing homes based on the care needs, or acuity of the residents. Our concern is that Case Mix payments will ignore the Medicaid funding shortfalls of the past decade, and that quality will suffer with insufficient resources.

Our elected officials representing our residents, patients and staff need to know that delivering the care everyone wants for their loved ones is getting harder and harder to provide in Connecticut. Our employees know this very well. The reason is not hard to understand. There has been almost no

additional Medicaid help in the state budget for now over a decade, but the nursing home population is older and sicker than it was twenty years ago. We see so much more dementia and Alzheimer's disease than ever before as well as complex social situations that require placement in nursing homes. Today's nursing home resident also have greater behavioral health needs, mental health, as well as substance use disorders. Case Mix could be an answer but only if the funding shortfall is addressed.

Please help us deliver the care we all want and please make long overdue nursing home funding a priority in this year's budget. On behalf of everyone at Madison House thank you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 203-245-8008.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick A. Townsend". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Patrick A. Townsend  
Center Executive Director  
Madison House