



**February 19, 2020**

***Written testimony of Sheena Postell, Social Worker, Meadowbrook of Granby, Granby, CT  
Concerning the Governor's Recommended FY 2020 and FY 2021 Proposed Budget***

Good evening Senator Osten, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Sheena Postell. I am one of the Social Workers at Meadowbrook of Granby in Granby, Connecticut. Meadowbrook of Granby has been providing nursing home care in our community for 29 years. We are a 90 bed nursing home, and we have approximately 225 employees working at our facility.

We are thankful of the Appropriations Committee for supporting increases in last session's budget for nursing home wage and benefit increases for our employees. Recruiting and retaining employees continue to be at the forefront of the daily challenges we face. Having adequate skilled staff to meet the needs of nursing home residents with increasing care needs on all shifts will even be more challenging as the Connecticut minimum wage continue to rise. We are grateful for the new wage enhancement dollars, and are confident that they will help in this ongoing struggle to assure quality care in our nursing home.

I am here today with some of the devoted caregivers from Meadowbrook of Granby. We all want to be able to deliver the highest quality care experience to anyone who comes to Meadowbrook of Granby. We have an excellent track record with successful discharges home from our short term rehabilitation unit. As well as a community that chooses to come back to us when they need care because of the wonderful staff that we have.

I fear that our nursing home continues to be at a concerning point in 2020. Major changes are being developed called "Case Mix" will change the way Medicaid reimburses our nursing home this year. While we in concept agree with Case Mix and how it reimburses nursing homes base on the care needs, or acuity, of the residents, our nursing home is afraid that the new Case Mix payments will ignore the Medicaid funding shortfalls of the past decade, and that quality will suffer with insufficient resources.

**350 Salmon Brook Street • Granby, CT 06035 • Tel: 860.653.9888 • Fax: 860.653.8938**

**[athenanh.com/meadowbrook](http://athenanh.com/meadowbrook)**

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We are here today so that our elected leaders know that delivering the care everyone wants for their family members and neighbors is getting harder and harder to provide in Connecticut. Our employees know this very well. It comes down to the fact that there has been almost no additional Medicaid help in the state budget for now over a decade, but the nursing home population is getting more complicated than it was twenty years ago. The majority of the residents that we serve have some form of dementia or mental health challenges with difficult behaviors for staff to manage. We hope that Case Mix is an answer, but only if the funding shortfall is addressed.

Please help us hard working staff deliver the care we all want for our loved ones and please make long overdue nursing home funding a priority in this year's budget.

On behalf of the staff at Meadowbrook of Granby, I thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.