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| <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord Chamberlain Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bel-Air Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lord Chamberlain Nursing & Rehabilitation Center       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheshire House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystic Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Home Health Care LLC                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greentree Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Companion Care                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ryders Rehabilitation                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryders Health Management                               |

February 19, 2020

***Written testimony from Ryders Health Management 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. Ryders Health Management is a family-owned management company for independent skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers, Home Health Care, Companion Care Services, Outpatient Rehabilitation offered in all locations, and Ryders Rehab-therapies provided in the comfort of your home. We provide the full continuum of post-acute care. We are pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of our skilled nursing and rehabilitation Centers:

- Aaron Manor, Chester, CT
- Bel-Air Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Newington, CT
- Lord Chamberlain Manor, Stratford, CT
- Cheshire House Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Waterbury, CT
- Douglas Manor, Windham, CT
- Greentree Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation, Waterford, CT
- Lord Chamberlain Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Stratford, CT
- Mystic Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, Mystic, CT

We want to begin by thanking the Appropriations Committee for supporting increases in last session's budget for nursing home wage 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 even be more challenging as the Connecticut minimum wage continue to rise. Please know these new wage enhancement dollars will help in this ongoing struggle to assure quality care in our nursing home.

However, Ryders is very concerned that that our skilled nursing homes continues to be at a critical crossroads in 2020. This year major changes are being developed called "Case Mix" that 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. We believe Connecticut nursing homes have an accumulated Medicaid funding shortfall of approximately \$125 million that must be addressed before case mix can be implemented without causing harm to patient care.

Ryders want to express 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 isn't really 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. Today's nursing home resident also have greater behavioral health needs-----mental health and substance use disorders are common on top of the skilled nursing care that today's nursing home residents need. Case Mix will only be a solution 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 Ryders, thank you for your consideration.