



**Senate Bill 900, An Act Increasing Funding for Aging in Place Initiatives.**

Aging Committee

February 23, 2021

Home Care Association of America Connecticut advocates for employer-based home care agencies that employ, train, monitor and supervise caregivers; create a plan of care for the client; and work toward a safe and secure environment for the person at home. HCAOA Connecticut members employ several thousand caregivers providing quality, affordable home care to thousands of elderly consumers, persons who are disabled and veterans across the state.

HCAOA Connecticut **supports Senate Bill 900** and respectfully requests that the Aging Committee **approve** the bill.

Senate Bill 900 would, over the next fiscal year, appropriate \$2 million to the Department of Social Services to expand access to the Connecticut home-care program for the elderly, and \$1 million to the Department of Aging and Disability Services to expand access to the Alzheimer's disease respite care program. The funds are for the purpose of allowing more senior citizens to age in place at home.

HCAOA Connecticut supports the important public policy of aging in place, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many people would prefer to remain in their own homes. The funds would help elderly persons to live out their years in the comfort and safety of their own home.

The funding makes sense from a budget and quality of life perspective. The state should encourage people to remain in their own home as they age. They are familiar with the environment – their own residence. The costs are lower. Many people would rather stay at home than relocate to a nursing facility, which ultimately costs the state more money in Medicaid funds.

Additional funds to the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) and respite care for seniors living at home would help persons maintain their independence, dignity and mobility. CHCPE helps eligible clients continue living at home instead of going to a nursing home. The needs of each applicant to

CHCPE are reviewed to determine if the applicant may remain at home with the help of home care services.

The Connecticut Statewide Respite Care Program offers relief to stressed caregivers by providing information, support, the development of an appropriate plan of care, and services for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias. Clients may receive care through the delivery of services through agencies (traditional care option) or caregivers may hire someone of their choice to provide care (self-directed care option). The program may subsidize the cost of services. The program is a joint partnership between the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, the Area Agencies on Aging, and the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services - State Unit on Aging.

The funding for the two programs would help improve the well-being of seniors so they can remain at home longer in a safe, familiar environment.

Please contact Mark McGoldrick, Chairman, HCAOA Connecticut, (203) 924-4949, with any questions or for additional information, or visit [www.hcaoa.org](http://www.hcaoa.org).