



Testimony to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut

March 2, 2021

Regarding

Senate Bill 881, An Act Concerning Workforce Development

Senate Bill 851, An Act Concerning Workforce Development

On behalf of [LeadingAge Connecticut](http://www.leadingageconnecticut.org), a membership association representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the entire field of aging services and senior housing, I am pleased to submit the following testimony regarding workforce development initiatives in the state.

LeadingAge Connecticut would like to raise with the Committee our concerns regarding the workforce crisis facing the aging services field and request that efforts to address workforce development include the field of aging services.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the aging services field was experiencing a significant shortage of, and a growing demand for, qualified persons who are capable of managing, supervising, and providing high-quality services and supports for older adults. These shortages have now been exacerbated by the public health emergency.

Our national research shows that by 2030, job openings in the aging services field are expected to grow substantially, particularly for counselors, social workers, community and social service workers, home health aides, and personal care aides. In the state, our nursing homes are experiencing a shortage in certified nursing assistants, qualified directors of nursing and nursing home administrators - and the Covid-19 pandemic has only worsened the situation.

Health care and nursing administrative and leadership positions are vitally important to the delivery of quality long term care and services and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find qualified individuals to fill these positions. We highlight this concern because the importance of strong leadership has never been so evident as during the current public health crisis.

We request that the Committee consider the growing need within the field of aging services as you address the state's workforce issues.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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