



**Human Services Committee  
Public Hearing  
Thursday, March 25, 2021  
Written Testimony of the  
Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils**

Representative Abercrombie, Senator Moore and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. Thank you for taking the time to review this written testimony on behalf of the Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils [SCPRC]. With support from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the SCPRC serves as an independent group made up of Resident Council Presidents from nursing homes across the state as well as former Resident Council Presidents who have transitioned to living independently in the community. We work together to empower Connecticut's 20,000 nursing home residents to self-advocate on issues that directly impact their care and quality of life. The SCPRC is testifying on the following bill:

**S.B. 1057 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES**

We want to thank the Human Services Committee for raising this bill. The SCPRC fully supports this bill. Increased staffing levels in nursing homes is not a new topic for the legislature. In fact, a recent report from the Office of Legislative Research (December, 2020) highlighted 4 bills since 2010 that were specific to raising staffing levels in nursing home. However, none of these bills passed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many systemic issues that plague nursing homes, including insufficient staffing levels. Under Federal law (Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, 1987) nursing homes are required "to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being" of each resident. Individualized person-centered care cannot be achieved without improved staffing levels.

As the Executive Board we represent all nursing home residents. Please take the time to view the video below which summarizes our thoughts, experiences, and feelings as to why nursing home staffing levels, after 41 years of stagnation, need to be statutorily increased.

<https://youtu.be/y7hmDGQFnws>

Thank you for taking the time to review our testimony.



The Statewide Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils:

Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez (President) – Pendleton Health and Rehab; Mystic  
Patty Bausch – Newtown Rehabilitation and Health Care Center; Newtown  
Brad Parkhurst – Living independently in New London  
David Peck – Living independently in Hamden  
Susan Bilansky – Hebrew Home; West Hartford  
Martha Leland – Touchpoints at Manchester; Manchester  
John Balisciano – Hewitt Health and Rehab; Shelton  
Gregory Brooks – Quinnipiac Valley Center; Wallingford