

**Testimony in support of:
SB-1057:AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES.**

**Submitted by:
Marjorie Richardson
March 25, 2021**

Dear Honorable Chairpersons Abercrombie and Moore, Ranking Members Berthel and Case, Vice Chairs Lesser and Garibay, and all other Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Marjorie Richardson and I live in Meriden, Connecticut. I am writing to express my support for *SB-1057: An Act Concerning Nursing Homes*, however, I would like to see social workers included in the list of staff needing improved ratios.

My grandfather, Bill Richardson, a veteran, lived his last years in a nursing home that his VA benefits could afford him. While I'm grateful for the workers' care of him in his last days, I think his last days could have been better had he had a social worker that was on staff that could afford him more time. The current ratio for social worker to client is 120:1. That is unacceptable to me. For a full-time social worker, at the very most, I believe the ratio should be 60:1. I visited him often, although it was hard to because I was filled with a deep sadness. I know he was lonely, and sad, and he was experiencing severe dementia. I believe a social worker who could dedicate more time to each client would have been able to help him with sadness, and perhaps find more purpose and meaningful activities within the nursing home, and perhaps with managing the dementia as well. I believe how we treat the elderly as a whole in in the country is problematic, and this could be step in the right direction. Connecticut should be one of the leading states to be treatment for our elders.

I support the *SB-1057: An Act Concerning Nursing Homes* and urge you to include an improved minimum staffing ratio for social workers, and favorably vote the bill out of the Human Services Committee.

With respect and gratitude for your service and consideration,

Marjorie Richardson
Meriden, CT