

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6926

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR

Title: CERTAIN HOME HEALTH CARE EXPENSES.

Vote Date: 4/19/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 4/3/2023

File No.: 715

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee; Senator Kevin Kelly, 21st District.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would allow taxpayers to deduct from their adjusted gross income up to \$60,000 of expenses paid or incurred for the full-time home health care of (1) a relative (by blood, adoption, or marriage) age 70 or older, or (2) a qualifying dependent or spouse who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.

The proponents of the bill aim to make aging and remaining at home more affordable. Most health care expenses for elderly persons are already covered by Medicare and are eligible for a deduction on federal income taxes. Home care agencies provide non-medical home care services to seniors and persons who are disabled. These services are not covered by Medicare, and do not currently qualify for an income tax deduction.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Marlene Chickerella, Chair, Home Care Association of America, Connecticut Chapter](#) testified that home care agencies' non-medical caregivers provide essential services to elderly and disabled persons to help them live in their own homes and keep them out of costly, long-term institutional settings.

Professional caregivers enable seniors to enjoy independent living longer in their own homes by preventing falls and other injuries; ensuring medications are taken and routines are followed;

helping with dressing, showering and toileting; preparing nutritious meals and maintaining a healthy, balanced diet; providing companionship, personal care; and helping seniors remain engaged and connected.

Private-pay home care fills a critical gap for seniors between hospital stays, nursing home care, and care provided by family members and loved ones. Elderly Americans receiving home care generally need fewer trips to the doctor and hospital, reducing overall health care costs while also creating jobs in the growing home care sector. By providing a tax deduction to non-medical in-home caregivers, the state would recognize the value of the service, encourage greater participation, and provide necessary tax relief to families paying for the service.

[Tony Olivero, Connecticut Resident](#) provided general comments requesting that their income and property taxes be cut. They state inflation has been tough.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Jean Holloway

Date: April 28, 2023