

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-931  
AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE  
**Title:** CARE PROGRAM.  
**Vote Date:** 02/28/2023  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable  
**PH Date:** 2/21/2023  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill would increase the number of persons eligible for the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Amy Porter, Commissioner:** They are **opposed** to this legislation. This bill would increase income and asset limits within the available appropriations which means they would be providing the same amount of respite services to a larger eligible population. This means less support for more people. Also, while the bill includes an additional appropriation of \$1 million dollars it is not included in the Governor's proposed budget. Also, the committee should know that they have allocated \$500,000 to provide additional spending for the Connecticut Respite Care Program which will continue until the end of 2024.

**Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Ms. Julianna McVeigh:** They are in **support** of this proposal. Expanding respite opportunities for caregivers and families dovetails with the states rebalancing efforts and will provide a larger safety net for our elderly population.

**Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, Ms. Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy:** They submitted testimony in **support** of this bill. They provided information concerning the health and financial benefits of having a person with Alzheimer's remain in

their homes and how the ability for family and other care givers to get a break helps the elderly and those caring for them.

**LeadingAge, Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President:** They are in **support** of this bill and the committee effort to increase funding for this important and valuable service. Unpaid care givers provide hours of unpaid services and supports that might otherwise cost the state millions of dollars in Medicaid funds annually.

**AARP Connecticut, Ms Anna Doroghazi, Assoc. State Director, Advocacy and Outreach:** They are in strong **support** of the respite program and would like for it to be available to as many people as possible through increasing income and asset limits.

**Connecticut Association of Adult Day Services, Mr. Andrei Brel, Advocacy Chair:** They are in support of this proposal.

**Ms. Olivia Canie, Master of Public Health Student, Yale School of Public Health:** She offered testimony in support of this bill. Any effort to increase access to respite care would go a long way in easing the burden of family caregivers and reducing the strain on the long-term care system.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk**

**Date: 3/2/23**