

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-244

AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE

Title: CARE PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/12/2024

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2024

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was raised to support the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

The original bill requires the Dept. of Social Services to seek and implement a waiver of the Social Security Act to secure federal funds to support the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

The JFS language (LCO 2833) changes the title of the bill to "AA Requiring A Study On The Feasibility OF Expanding Access To Respite Services By Pursuing A Family Care Giver Support Benefit Through A Medicaid Demonstration Waiver" and directs the Dept. of Social Services to conduct a study on the feasibility of pursuing a family caregiver support benefit and to report to the Aging and human Services Committees not later than January 1, 2025.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dept. of Social Services, Ms. Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner: They are in **opposition** to this bill since it does not appear to be feasible to seek federal Medicaid authority for the state-funded Alzheimer's respite care program.

Connecticut Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman: They **support** this bill because the weight of caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's is great and it affects caregiver's mental, physical, and emotional health. This bill acknowledges the role of caregivers but also provides a solution that supports their well-being and the well-being of those they care for.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst: They offer their **support** for this proposal and believe that ensuring respite opportunities will ensure a safety-net for a growing population of taxpayers, who continue to contribute to our local municipalities and who, as a public policy, serve the state well.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

LeadingAge Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President: They are in **support** of this legislation that would seek federal matching funds to support the Alzheimer's disease respite care program.

North Central Ara Agency on Aging, Ms. Maureen McIntyre, CEO: They strongly support the philosophy behind this bill since the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program has helped caregivers and the reduced the number of nursing home placements while on the program.

Fairfield Senior Advocates, Mr. William Lenahan, Director of State Issues: They **support** this proposal and point out that the Alzheimer's Disease Respite Program is critical to providing requisite relief to Alzheimer's family caregivers. With 24/7 demands family caregivers incur significant emotional, financial and physical difficulties.

Alzheimer's Association, Ms. Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy: They **support** this bill and point out the respite services provide temporary, substitute care that gives the caregiver a break from his or her caregiving duties.

Alzheimer's Association, Volunteer Advocates:

Ms. Karen Carty
Mr. Richard Collins
Ms. Marilyn Kowalski
Ms. Lisa Marshall

They are all in favor of this bill and shared their own personal stories.

Ct Statewide Family Council, Mr. Frederic Kaeser, Vice Chairperson: He offered his **support** for the bill.

Ms. Jessica Hill is in **support** of this bill.
Ms. Irma Rappaport is in **support** of this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Submitted

Reported by:
Toni Lombardi, Clerk
Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk

Date: 3/13/24

