

**Human Services Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No: HB-5484 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT EXPANDING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR HOME CARE

Title: CLIENTS.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/10/2026

File No.: 392

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would reimburse home care providers who provide nonemergency medical transportation services to Medicaid patients under the Medicaid program. Despite DSS's wish for a fiscal note, support seeks to recognize the efforts carried out by caregivers and homemakers.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:

Cannot support the legislation as the bill does not state the scope or amount of the potential fee increase. Ms. Reeves adds that any such change would require an appropriation. She follows up with clarifications on the definitions tied to "homemaker" and "personal care attendance services."

Office of the State Comptroller, Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller: Refers to findings held by the Rural Subcommittee, which identified a lack of transportation options as a critical barrier to receiving care. Mr. Scanlon's Office supports enhancing healthcare access in Connecticut's rural areas and incentivizing further access to providers' transportation services.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Juniper Homecare, Andrei Brel, President: Supports the bill and comments that home and community-based services are cost-effective alternatives to institutional care and adds that

transportation is unique in that it unlocks access to these services, revealing, however, that current reimbursement structures do not adequately support duties commonly performed by caregivers/homemakers. He finds the bill an attempt to address this structural gap.

Home Care Association of America, Marlene Chickerella, President, and Managing Partner, B&M Homemaking and Companion Services: Supports the bill and recognizes the complementary services of caregivers and agencies. She is in favor of providing convenient options for clients cared for at home by lowering transportation costs to regular appointments. In her view, adding reimbursement under Medicaid improves access to care, scheduling efficiency, clarity of policies, health outcomes, and workforce retention.

Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, Tracy Wodatch, President & CEO: Considers the bill a creative approach to addressing non-emergency transportation needs. Expresses confidence that reimbursing time, mileage, and wear/tear of the vehicle improves access to essential appointments. Supports exploring the proposal while directing the Committee's attention to Medicaid's underlying rates.

Charter Oak Home Care, Conant Schoenly, President & CEO: Understands that their caregivers have transported their Medicaid clients "out of the goodness of their hearts," and states that it's unrealistic to say caregivers should be helping their clients organize transportation, for reasons that it requires significant advanced notice and doesn't come with assistance entering/exiting the vehicle. They request a fair reimbursement rate.

Connecticut State Dental Association, Kathleen Gerrity, Executive Director: Encourages the Committee "to ensure that transportation provided under this legislation clearly includes appointments for oral health services." Ms. Gerrity brings attention to oral health and clarifies that it, too, should be included in the healthy aging talks.

Sydney Glasgow, Madison: Shares a story of their relationship with a neighbor in need. Reveals the "peace of mind" they would feel if the neighbor were to have a visiting caregiver with an incentive to help.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 6:

Anonymous 7:

Opposes the bill and any attempt to increase government spending.

Anonymous 8: suggests the Committee take up fewer bills simultaneously.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson

Date: March 27, 2026