

**SA12-001**

HB5445

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**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**APPROPRIATIONS  
PART 10  
2897 - 3219**

**2012**

# alzheimer's association®

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

**Appropriations Committee  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012**

Senator Harp and Rep. Walker and distinguished members of the committee, please accept this written testimony on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter (The Association) re: H.B. 5442 An Act Concerning Expenditures of the General Fund and H.B. 5445 An Act Concerning Expenditures of State Agencies Providing Social Services.

The Alzheimer's Association is a donor supported, non-profit organization serving the needs of families, health care professionals and those individuals who are affected with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Association provides information and resources, support groups, education and training, and a 24 hour, 7 day a week Helpline.

We appreciate your support of the Alzheimer's Statewide Respite program and request that funding be restored for this essential **community-based program** that provides much needed relief for exhausted and stressed caregivers. Family caregivers provide most of the care for individuals with dementia so they can remain at home, delaying nursing institutionalization and saving state Medicaid dollars.

### **The Alzheimer's Statewide Respite Program**

In Connecticut, there are over 70,000 citizens with Alzheimer's or other related dementia and more than 174,000 caregivers. Since its inception in 1998, the Statewide Respite Care Program has continued to be a success and provides the resources to a caregiver to establish an effective plan of care for the individual with Alzheimer's Disease and allows the family caregiver much needed periods of respite to care for their loved-ones. Specifically, family caregivers are eligible for minimal financial grants to help pay for services such as adult day care, in-home care and short-term inpatient respite care.

According to our 2012 Facts and Figures, Connecticut's family caregivers provide over \$2.4 billion in uncompensated services and endure significant physical and mental stress, and truly are the backbone of the long-term care system. Alzheimer's also places significant financial burdens on families and businesses. Businesses lose

billions a year in lost productivity and replacement expenses for employees who miss work or quit to care for a relative, according to the National Institute on Aging.

Alzheimer patients are most at risk of nursing home transition due to its unrelenting, progressive condition that destroys brain cells. On average, total Medicaid and Medicare costs for health care services, long-term and hospice care are three to nineteen times higher for older people living with Alzheimer's than for other older people.

The average respite grant of \$2,500 per client saves the state Medicaid dollars, when considering the average cost of nursing institutionalization is \$79,000.00 per year. In addition, most individuals prefer to remain in the comfort of their homes where feasible. Seventy percent of individuals with Alzheimer's live at home with their loved-ones.

Outcome measures reported by the Department of Social Services ending June 30, 2011 demonstrate a high level of satisfaction from program participants, while the changing needs of families continue to demand interventions on the part of the care managers to accommodate variable family dynamics and service needs. In fact, 92% of program participants indicated that the services were beneficial in assisting the client in remaining at home during some portion of the program year, and 79% stated the care recipient was able to remain home for the entire program year, and 98% affirmatively responded the program was effective in improving the caregiver and client's quality of life and reducing caregiver stress.

The Governor's proposal to cut \$229,000.00 from this program will impact over a hundred individuals and their families who rely on critical resources and assistance to support or care for their loved ones. We commemorate the Governor for moving toward community-based home care options. However, respite care is a successful and established community based safety-net program already in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony to request that you restore funding for the FY'13 year. The Alzheimer's Association asks that you not adopt the governor's proposal to cut \$229,000.00 for these vital services. Please feel free to contact me at [Laurie.julian@alz.org](mailto:Laurie.julian@alz.org), or (860) 828-2828.

**H – 1133**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

**VOL.55  
PART 11  
3438 – 3771**

(Speaker Donovan in the Chair.)

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed.

Clerk, please call Calendar 437.

THE CLERK:

On Page 33, Calendar 437, substitute for House Bill  
Number 5445, AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER  
THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, favorable report  
by the committee on Appropriations.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Vice chair of Appropriations, Representative Kathy  
Abercrombie, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Good evening, madam.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Mr. Speaker, I move the acceptance of the joint  
committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

mhr/tmj/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

370  
April 26, 2012

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark?

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO 4033, which is a strike all amendment, which will become the bill.

I would ask the Clerk to please call the amendment and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4033, which will be designated House "A."

THE CLERK:

LCO 4033, House "A," offered by Representative Abercrombie.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Any objection?

mhr/tmj/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

371  
April 26, 2012

Hearing none, Representative, you may proceed.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows certain Connecticut energy assistant program recipients to receive a matching payment for a supplemental energy assistance benefit. This benefit is for utility heated houses. The reason why this is so important is because as of May 1st they will be getting their shut off notices.

I move passage of the bill.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Question is on adoption.

Will you remark further?

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. But I would like to say also at the same time that this is probably one of the mildest winters on record.

And what this bill does is allows some individuals to apply for the second time for both the federal pass-through money and then obligates Northeast utilities to match it.

The risk of not doing this is that we've got to send the money back to the federal government. And I personally feel that it would have been nice if we could have gotten the federal government to tell us that we could keep it until next year because I'm not sure what's going to happen between now and next year.

So I urge adoption of this. And maybe we can figure out another way to do it next year where we don't actually give away money that we shouldn't be giving away.

Thank you.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Thank you, Representative.

Care to remark further on the amendment? Care to remark further?

If not, let me try your minds.

All those in favor of the amendment, please signify by saying "Aye."

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

mhr/tmj/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

373  
April 26, 2012

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted.

Remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests, please come to the well of the House. Members, take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll call.  
Members to the Chamber. The House is taking a roll call vote. Members to the Chamber, please.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Please check the roll call board to make sure your vote has been properly cast.

If all the members have voted -- the (inaudible) machine will be locked.

Clerk, please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5445, as amended by House "A."

mhr/tmj/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

374  
April 26, 2012

Total Number Voting	144
Necessary for Passage	73
Those voting Yea	144
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	7.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

The bill as amended is passed

Representative Riley.

REP. RILEY (46th):

Oh, there we go.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good evening.

I do have a few items on the desk right now.

So first, I want to move for the immediate transmittal of this item to the Senate for further action.

SPEAKER DONOVAN:

Motion is for immediate trans -- suspension of the rules for the immediate transmittal of this item to the Senate.

Any objection?

Without objection, so ordered.

**S - 641**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2012**

**VOL. 55  
PART 6  
1633 - 1960**

cah/mab/gbr  
SENATE

218  
April 26, 2012

Madam President, I move all items on Senate Agendas Numbers 2 and 3 dated Thursday April 26, 2012, to be acted upon as indicated and that the agendas be incorporated by reference into the Senate Journal and the Senate transcript.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, appearing on Senate Agenda Number 3 under business from the House under rules suspended transmitted, Madam President, would ask for suspension for the purposes of taking up with the intent to refer to the Consent Calendar Substitute House Bill Number 5445, AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, as amended by House Amendment Schedule "A."

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President.

With suspension, would move that item to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would like to mark some additional items go at this time.

THE CHAIR:

cah/mab/gbr  
SENATE

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Bill 5096; on page 9, Calendar 3 -- 312, Senate Bill Number 114; page 11, Calendar 327, Senate Bill Number 378; page 13, Calendar 344, Senate Bill Number 143. Also on page 13, Calendar 343, Senate Bill 116; page 14, Calendar 350, Senate Bill Number 198; page 26, Calendar 74, Senate Bill Number 196. On page 27, Calendar 83, Senate Bill Number 263. On page 31, Calendar 184, Senate Bill Number 94; page 31, 1 -- Calendar 166, Senate Bill Number 62. Also on page 31, Calendar 167, Senate Bill 64; page 32, Calendar 185, Senate Bill 190; page 33, Calendar 220, Senate Bill 351.

THE CHAIR:

Are those all the bills on the -- oh, Agenda 3, sir. The last one on Agenda 3. I think it --

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Just wanted to -- just to reconfirm that the item from Senate Agenda Number 3 --

THE CHAIR:

Was not called.

SENATOR LOONEY:

-- is on the Consent Calendar that we had taken up under suspension, substitute House Bill Number 5445.

THE CLERK:

Yes, sir.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Are there any questions?

If not, Mr. Clerk, I will call for a roll call vote. Will you call for a roll call vote and I'll open the machine for the Consent Calendar.

cah/mab/gbr  
SENATE

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April 26, 2012

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Senators please return to the Chamber.

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted. The machine will be closed. And, Mr. Clerk, will you call the tally on the Consent Calendar, please.

THE CLERK:

On today's Consent Calendar,

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Passage	19
Those Voting Yea	35
Those Voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passed.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, would move for a suspension for immediate transmittal to the Governor of Substitute House Bill Number 5445, AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, which was just adopted as part of our Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.