



Aging Committee Public Hearing, March 8, 2022

To: Chairs Miller and Garibay, Vice-Chairs Lopes and Hughes, Ranking Members Fazio and Wilson, and distinguished Aging Committee Members:

Testimony of Fairfield Senior Advocates (FSA) in SUPPORT of:

H.B. No. 5314 AN ACT DETERRING FRAUD AND ABUSE PERPETRATED AGAINST SENIOR CITIZENS.

S.B. No. 266 AN ACT CONCERNING A REGISTRY OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Fairfield Senior Advocates (FSA), an all-volunteer, non-partisan organization based in Fairfield, CT that is dedicated to support the quality of life and retention of our seniors in Fairfield and elsewhere within our State.

H.B. No. 5314 AN ACT DETERRING FRAUD AND ABUSE PERPETRATED AGAINST SENIOR CITIZENS.

We support this bill since it reflects the key recommendations of the State Task Force -To Study Ways To Protect Senior Citizens From Fraud.

Requisite training for all mandated reporters is essential to increasing trained eyes and ears in the field to detect elderly fraud, abuse, abandonment and exploitation; and how to report such incidences. Increased detection and reporting of such incidences should prevent and/or decrease the effects of such fraud, abuse, abandonment, and exploitation.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) could follow an existing format from the mandatory training required of financial agents (PA 15-236). It would also be beneficial that this program's information be listed on the Commission for Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's website similar to an existing tab for Financial Abuse and Exploitation.

This mandatory training could lead to additional cases for Protective Services for the Elderly (PSE). In anticipation of a potential case increase; DSS funding and direction to hire sufficient PSE staff should provide increased protection for our seniors.

Mandatory statements of Medicaid applicant's rights to applicants should assist in minimizing Medicaid fraud. Additionally, fraud and exploitation should be reduced by requiring those assisting Medicaid applicants other than blood or marriage relations, to disclose: any affiliation, business relations, ownership relationship, or employment with any entity or business that may bill Medicaid for services to such person.

We support HB 5314 and request the committee to act favorably on this bill.

S.B. No. 266 AN ACT CONCERNING A REGISTRY OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.

We support the establishment of this registry and believe it is critically important that such a registry be available to the public and that public awareness of this database is critical.

This registry should also be available to the public on the Commission for Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's (CWCSEO) website and be listed within the Registry Repository along with the following, currently listed databases: National Sex Offender Registry, Connecticut Sex Offender Registry, CT Nurse's Aide Registry, Practitioner/Entity Suspension or Exclusion Database, CT Criminal Motor Vehicle Conviction Database and the Professional Licensure Verification Database. Additionally, under CWCSEO's website featuring a Seniors Sub Committee section, a tab regarding such registry information and a link to the Registry Repository would be beneficial.

Enabling the Department of Public Health (DPH) to also create and implement a criminal listing and patient abuse background search program should reduce crimes perpetrated against the elderly.

And it is also critical that long term care facilities actually conduct such background searches on all employees and volunteers who will come in contact with their patients; and report such search results to DPH.

We support SB266 and request the committee act favorably on this bill

REGARDING **H.B. No. 5313** AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY PRICE CONTROLS ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY TEMPORARY NURSING SERVICES AGENCIES.

We believe that legislative actions are required to curtail the apparent abuses by temporary nursing pool agencies as reflected by Public Testimony spoken at the March 3,2022 Aging Committee's Public Hearing meeting. In principle, we agree with the direction of this bill, especially mandatory registration with and annual cost reporting to the Department of Public Health(DPH) by temporary nursing pool agencies.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our state and for this testimony opportunity.

Sincerely

William Lenahan

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