

February 6, 2009

Legislative Update

The Connecticut Association of Home Care & Hospice

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Dear Jennifer,

Welcome to the bi-weekly legislative update. As you will see we have a new and improved look from the last update with the hope of making the information more comprehensive for you, our reader and valued member.

Below is a discussion of selected House & Senate Bills of particular interest to CAHCH. For a full list of bills that CAHCH is tracking from the previous two weeks, [click here](#).

Please let us know if you have any suggestions regarding the update. Suggestion or questions can be emailed to Jennifer Bernheim at bernheim@cahch.org.

Advocacy in Action

January 23

Representative Paul Doyle, Co-Chair of the Human Services Committee, spoke to CAHCH's Board of Directors

January 27

CAHCH Met with Representative Toni Walker and Senator Paul Doyle, Co-Chairs of the Human Services Committee

CAHCH Met with Representative Janice Geigler

February 4

CAHCH Met with Representative Joseph Serra, Co-Chair of the Select Committee on Aging

CAHCH Met with the Attorney General's Office regarding criminal background checks.

February 13

CAHCH Scheduled to Meet with Senator Jonathan Harris and Betsy Ritter, Co-Chairs of the Public Health Committee

February 18

Appropriations Committee Hearing on the Governor's Budget Proposals Regarding Human Services at 4 p.m.

Feature Issue -

Criminal Background Checks

CAHCH Testifies in Opposition of Raised H.N. No. 5312

Several bills are being proposed this Legislative Session, which relate to increased protections for patients hiring non-licensed caregivers. Among these bills includes Raised Bill 5312, which seeks to revise the criminal background check process for employees of homemaker-companion agencies. CAHCH's President & CEO Brian Ellsworth presented testimony on January 27th at the Select Committee on Aging Public Hearing, reiterating CAHCH's longstanding support of criminal background checks, but opposing this bill because the revisions are too limiting. His testimony can be viewed on the [Connecticut Network](#). His testimony begins at one hour and three minutes into the hearing. To read the testimony, [click here](#).

Brian included in his testimony a summary of CAHCH's Best Practices for Hiring Non-Licensed Caregivers," which was created by CAHCH's Policy Committee and recently approved by the CAHCH Board of Directors. This Best Practices document can be found at www.cahch.org under "Latest News." CAHCH is working to create a consumer-education summary to outline these recommendations as part of a broader strategy to promote widespread adoption of these guidelines. CAHCH is advocating to legislators that any statutory requirements regarding criminal background checks be flexible enough to allow agencies to use private and affordable background check vendors. Brian Ellsworth met with Richard Kehoe, Special Counsel to the Attorney General's Office, who has expressed interest in pursuing such legislation. CAHCH will keep you posted on further developments.

Proposed H.B. No. 5292

AN ACT REQUIRING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR NURSE'S AIDES AND HOME HEALTH AIDES.

To ensure the safety of state residents by requiring that nurse's aides and home health aides be subject to criminal history background checks

1/21/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health

Proposed S.B. No. 412

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR HOME HEALTH AIDES.

To require the Department of Public Health to establish professional standards for home health aides and to require that any individual holding himself or herself out to be a home health aide shall be required to register with the Department of Public Health

1/22/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health

Proposed H.B. No. 5583

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOME HEALTH AIDES.

To protect the safety of residents in public housing projects

1/22/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Housing

Raised H.B. No. 5312

AN ACT CONCERNING CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES OF HOMEMAKER-COMPANION AGENCIES.

To enhance the background check requirements for employees of homemaker-companion agencies

1/22/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Aging

1/23/2009 Public Hearing 01/27

1/27/2009 CAHCH Testified in Opposition

S.B. No. 733

AN ACT CREATING A CIVIL ACTION FOR A CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY REPORTING A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEE'S ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY.

To create a civil action for employees to enforce the proper reporting of criminal histories by consumer reporting agencies to employers.

2/2/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Labor & Public Employees

1/29/2009 (LAB) Vote to Draft

Budget

CAHCH's Bill Raised as a Concept

On January 27, Brian Ellsworth met with Representative Toni Walker and Senator Paul Doyle, Co-Chairs of the Human Services Committee. In addition to discussing CAHCH's 2009 Legislative Agenda, Brian asked Representative Walker and Senator Doyle to raise a bill with CAHCH's agenda. At the February 3 Human Services Committee meeting, all concepts presented were raised by voice vote and included in the group of concepts raised was "AAC Home Care Nursing." The next step is for the concept to be drafted as a committee bill.

[S.B. No. 843](#)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SOCIAL SERVICES**

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.
2/5/2009 Referred to Joint Committee on Human Services

To view the Governor's proposed budget, [click here](#).

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