



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

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Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
February 25, 2019**

Senators Abrams and Somers, Representatives Steinberg and Petit and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Peter Mason and I am the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **Proposed S.B. No. 372 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES TO GUARDIANS OF ADULT CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

This proposed bill would require the state to pay guardians of adult children with intellectual disability, if the guardian was providing care for the adult child, the same stipend as those providing care under the Connecticut home-care program for elderly.

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) is a Medicaid Waiver program administered through the Department of Social Services (DSS). This waiver assists eligible older adults at risk of nursing home placement to continue to live in the community. Under this waiver, family members, except for spouses and legally-liable relatives which includes guardians, may be reimbursed for "Adult Family Living Services". These services include hands-on care such as bathing and dressing and independent adult family living assistance, such as meal preparation and laundry. The DSS Medicaid per diem rate for such services ranges from \$65.31 to \$110.29 depending on the service.

DDS is the operating agency for three Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waivers including the Individual and Family Support Waiver, the Comprehensive Supports Waiver and the Employment and Day Supports Waiver. Under these waivers certain services can be provided by a qualified family member or relative and reimbursed through the appropriately identified waiver rates. However, similar to the CHCPE Medicaid Waiver program, services under each of the DDS waivers cannot be provided by or reimbursed to a legally-liable relative, including a guardian. In the context of S.B. No. 372 this would mean that any stipend paid to a guardian for services provided, would not be eligible for federal financial participation and therefore would need to be wholly funded with state appropriations.

In addition, the department is unsure of how to project state costs associated with this bill, as we do not have a mechanism in place to identify which guardians might be interested in providing such paid services. Without the ability to project approximate costs associated with this bill or identify additional state appropriations to fund such expenses, the department is unable to support this proposal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding **Proposed [S.B. No. 372](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES TO GUARDIANS OF ADULT CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time. You also may contact Krista Ostaszewski, DDS Director of Legislative Affairs at (860) 418-6066 with additional questions.