

Letters To The Editor

Letters Home Care Spending Saves State Millions

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There is a relatively unknown industry sector that has saved the state of Connecticut an unprecedented \$533.5 million over the past five years, according to a recently released report to the legislature for 2009-2013 detailing Medicaid savings from the CT Home Care Program for Elders. And this sector is on track to save an additional \$100 million more in the coming year.

Home and community-based care is a cash cow, saving the state Department of Social Services over half a billion dollars every five years by caring for the state's growing Medicaid population at home instead of in institutions.

The "on the ground army" and growing workforce of 17,500 Connecticut home health workers including nurses, therapists, hospice and palliative caregivers, behavioral health workers and others is a cost-effective means of delivering care and achieving significant cost savings in the state budget.

But these savings will be short-lived if the governor does not reinvest a fair portion of these savings back into keeping Connecticut's home health agencies alive. Paying only 60 percent of what it costs home care agencies to pay their workers and comply with state regulations won't keep agency doors open much longer.

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