



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR
HEALTHCARE AT HOMESM

Substantial Cuts to Home Health Nursing Will Destabilize Connecticut's Mental Health System

Letter to the Hartford Courant | 2017

The proposed cut in the Democrat's State Budget of \$5.25 million for Medicaid home health medication administration will backfire potentially resulting in more costly hospitalization or institutional care for CT residents with multiple clinical conditions and severe and persistent mental illness.

The good news is 7,000 Medicaid beneficiaries have successfully transitioned from institutionalized care to living independently with appropriate medication in all of our 169 communities. Home health medication administration has benefitted these individuals while yielding significant Medicaid cost savings over several years in Connecticut's State budget.

However, this mental health population has been a target for state budget cuts for the past five years and again in 2017.

New England Home Care's 1,200 workers, including skilled nurses, have pioneered new Medicaid cost saving measures over the past 5 years resulting in a direct \$12-million savings to the State. Home health agencies are appreciative of the Malloy Administration's support in implementing new regulations so that home health providers can be a partner in care delivery while saving State funds.

But, any budget cuts to this population will completely derail the achieved cost saving and destabilize those suffering from severe and persistent mental illness.

Kimberly Nystrom

President, New England Home Care, Inc.

Chairman of the Board, CT Association for Healthcare at Home

knystrom@newenglandhomecare.com

860-622-9344