

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5562 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES

Title: STATUTES.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/17/2026

File No.: 446

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Service Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to make various revisions to human services statutes as requested by the Department of Social Services, including posting residents bill of rights at managed residential communities, maintaining a Department of Developmental Services former employee registry accessible to additional employers, a name change for LeadingAge Connecticut to LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, eliminates the Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight (MAPOC) gender affirming care reporting requirement, and implements federal regulations concerning home residents. The bill also adjusts the membership requirements for the LGBTQ Justice and Opportunity Network.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

LCO 3460 deletes Sec. 4 requirements that LGBTQ Council members come from all congressional districts.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner Department of Social Services:

Currently assisted living facilities are required to post a resident's bill of rights, contact information for the Department of Public Health and the State Long Term Ombudsman. This bill in Section 1 requires the posting to include information on how to make a report to DSS Protection Services, this should be readily available at facilities as add protection for state residents. Section 2 makes minor adjustments to the implementation of a new SNAP process and repeals the annual reporting requirement to just one report immediately after the new

process is implemented. Section 3 grants providers access to the Department of Developmental Services Abuse and Neglect Registry. This DDS Abuse and Neglect Registry is not a public database and can only be obtained if authorized by statute. Currently the statute permits employers whose employees provide service to individuals to have access but are unable to consult the registry when making hiring decisions. The bill grants access for the DSS Providers to cover providers serving individuals with autism and meets the original intent of providing additional protections to those with autism.

Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Aging and Disability Services:

We have included detailed new language to align our current practice to eliminate an outdated statutory case load formula to consider factors to the instruction levels established in the student's individualized education plan or service plan for determining the number of teachers needed to serve the school district. We are supportive of Section 1 and Section 3 of the bill.

Melvette Hill, Executor Director, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity:

We support the bill but with recommendations and emphasis on Section 4, 5 and 9. We support Section 4 and the changes to the membership of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Justice and Opportunity Network. We appreciate having a designee and administrative service for the network. Maintain a voting member and there should be a disability organization within the network. CWCSEO recommends preserving our appointment in original statute as in lines 117-118.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

John Merz, CEO, Advancing Connecticut Together:

The bill helps ensure the Network can continue doing this important work and allows us to formally adopt our own bylaws and codify clear governance practices. These updates ensure the Network remains strong, effective, and responsive to the communities it serves.

Mag Morelli, President, Leading Age:

Leading Age has consolidated our Connecticut and Rhode Island into one organization and requested conforming changes be made in statutes that referenced our association.

Section 1 we have no objections to and agree that an older adult may need protective services. Section 9 raises concerns because the language is unclear about federal regulation and which portions, they are intended to be incorporated. Both federal regulations cover more than antipsychotic medication and informed consent and the bill does not specify which sections are intended to become state law.

To avoid unintended incorporation, we ask that the bill be revised to reference only 42 CFR 483.6 and 42 CFR 483.10, (c) consistent with the bill's intent.

Gina Rosich, Chair, Social Work Department, University of St. Joseph:

Representation are important aspects of the work in human services. Proposed changes for Section 4 Section 46a-175 will allow the network to have a robust voting membership. Section 1 subsection (b) will strengthen our state's commitment to protecting older adults. Older adults are often prey to scams and predatory lending schemes. Reporting mandates increases the likelihood of erring on the side of caution and calling to report and be professionally assessed and interventions made.

Tim Gavriel, Vice-Chair, North Haven Pride:

The bill allows expanding the network to establish its own by laws and governance practices to allow for a more democratic accountability in the organization and a more transparent decision-making process.

Mairead Painter, Connecticut's State Long-Term Ombudsman:

Our testimony and position are that we support this bill.

Charlotte, Sophomore, Ledyard High School:

I have been working in my Civics class on actions project (CAP) concerning equality for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Students do not feel safe in their schools as I have faced being a part of the queer community. I hesitate to tell others directly and have lost friends or have told it is only a phase and will come to the realization that I am not queer. I support the various revisions to the human statues as in this bill.

Pradipta Maurmder Orthodontist:

Submitted testimony about the need to increase Medicaid reimbursement rate.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Matthew Barrett, President & CEO, Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities:

We are opposed to unorthodox statutory construction where whole section of federal regulations are incorporated by an overly broad federal reference into undesigned existing or new provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes. If adopted the new law would be confusing to residents, nursing homes and the public as to its meaning and application in state and federal law.

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: April 19, 2026