Human Services Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-433 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: AN ACT EXPANDING LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS.
Vote Date: 3/19/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/10/2026
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill seeks to rebalance the state's long-term care plan to offer more home-based and community living options. This transition is expected to honor Connecticut residents with disabilities and their need for additional care options, ensuring that long-term care can handle the state's growing needs, aging populations, and evolving care preferences.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner: Opposes, stating that rebalancing has been a focus of the Department for over a decade. Ms. Reeves adds that new language in Section 1(c)(2) of the bill is not necessary, considering the Department submitted the Operational protocol to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), said to inform strategic planning. She believes Section 2 of the bill is already best addressed by the LTC Planning Committee.

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, Joshua Wojcik, Acting Secretary: Opposes the bill, however, understands the Committee's intent to expand HCBS. The Office shares three concerns for consideration: the proposed reporting deadline is not feasible or timely, further reporting is unnecessary since data is already available, and limiting work on the LTC Planning Committee, which is actively working on a development process.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Melvette Hill, Executive Director: Supports, stating that the demand for home and community-based long-

term care (HCBS) is rising because of (1) increasing population shifts and (2) the preference over traditional institutional care. The Commission finds that the bill would allow more residents to choose where they age, respond to growing demands, and reduce financial burden on the state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Legal Services, Jean Mills Aranha, Elder Law Attorney: Calls the bill a "modest reach" that requires DSS to improve its outreach. They note how, for 25 years now, Connecticut has made strides in developing and implementing community long-term services. She is saddened to hear that the Governor's budget doesn't fund the Community First Choice benefit.

American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT), Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel: Believing in a society where people with disabilities are free of discrimination, they are compelled to support the bill. They write that SB 430 would enshrine the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act into Connecticut state statute and provide enforcement mechanisms.

Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Democrats Office, Senator Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore: believes that Connecticut residents deserve access to quality information about long-term care options. He shares that this would help individuals make better, more educated decisions and choices. As he says, Rebalancing Medicaid-funded long-term services "will allow elderly Medicaid recipients to select the living situation that is best for them."

LeadingAge Connecticut and Rhode Island, Mag Morelli, President: Welcomes the opportunity to support the study of expanding long-term service coverage.

Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, Tracy Wodatch, President & CEO: Believes this proposal aligns with the Governor's plan to sunset Community First Choice and transition Medicaid beneficiaries into more agency-based care. They suggest that funding must come with any transition in services to support the capacity of agency-based providers.

Disability Rights Connecticut, Litigation Attorney, Sheldon Toubman: Submits general comments on the work currently being undertaken by the LTC Planning Committee and DSS on maintaining Community First Choice. Mr. Toubman isn't convinced that DSS will "balance" care with the community, given their disregard for its 2020 strategic LTC plan.

Yale School of Public Health, Qinyao Li, Master's Student: Confirms that Connecticut's long-term services are undergoing serious demographic changes. As the number of residents with disabilities is expected to grow (+35,000 by 2028), Ms. Li finds the bill would strengthen efforts to expand access to HCBS and study additional strategies for expanding long-term care options.

Sandra Roberts, Self-Advocate: Supports rebalancing the strategic plan and tasking the LTC Planning Committee to conduct a study on care options. Ms. Roberts says it would be a violation to eliminate the Community First Choice service.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 6:
Anonymous 7:
Opposes the bill, cautioning that it would increase government spending, mandates, and state programs.

Anonymous 8:
Is opposed to the Committee taking up more than seven bills at a time.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson **Date: March 30, 2026**