

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-495 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP AND STUDY FOCUS OF THE
Title: LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/17/2026

File No.: 484

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill seeks to extend the scope of study conducted by the Long-Term Care Planning Committee (LTCPC). In response, stakeholders directly involved in the matter cite opposition to various additions to Committee membership, meanwhile proponents affirm that advancing examinations will help Connecticut ensure high-quality and obtainable long term care options.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Melvette Hill, Executive Director: Supports updating legislation establishing the LTCPC while making technical language revisions permitting appointed members to assign designees to serve as Committee members. CWCSEO particularly appreciates the directing areas of study to include State models for financing long-term care, best practices for workforce retention, wages, and standards, and project federal support and solutions.

Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services, Mairead Painter, Long Term Care Ombudsman: Opposes, although it “recognizes the importance of LTC planning across the full continuum.” ADS takes issue with the bill’s addition of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, or their designee, as a former member of the Planning Committee. Ms. Painter believes her role is designed to advocate independently without hesitation, not to guide state agency action.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Democrats Office, Senator Martin Looney, Senate President Pro Tempore: Believes this bill would improve the quality of long-term care in Connecticut by expanding the study's scope to include additional information for reference.

Leading Age Connecticut, Mag Morelli, President: Offers support for the bill with general comments, touching on new Planning Committee mandates and the proposed changes in membership structure. Ms. Morelli adds that, should the committee take on additional stakeholder groups for the study, LeadingAge would be pleased to serve in the role.

Certified Nursing Assistant, Lisa Palisi: Supports, as having been a caregiver in Long Term Care for over 30 years, believes "the whole system might collapse" if things do not change with respect to Planning Committee membership. She suggests adding a nurse or CNA would help guide retention policy, and how the Department of Correction's presence would aid by assessing aging prison populations.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities & Connecticut Center for Assisted Living, Matthew Barret, President & CEO:

Finds that subsection c wrongly grants membership to external people and organizations to the Long-Term Care Planning Committee. Mr. Barrett suggests this group would be more fit for Advisory Committee work, calling this "a reversal of the original purpose of the committee to statutorily establish the chairs from the legislative committees of cognizance only."

Insurance Association of Connecticut, Eric George, President:

Association of Health Insurance Providers (AHIP), Amanda Herrington, Executive Director:

American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), Jill Rickard, Regional Vice President of State Relations: These organizations oppose the bill, claiming it's duplicative of previous studies conducted in other states. They believe a payroll tax would pose yet another mandatory tax on workers and employers, underscoring the high, unaffordable costs of today.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson

Date: April 7, 2026