

Transportation Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5238 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT STUDYING ACCESS TO PARKING FOR HOME HEALTH CARE
Title: SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Vote Date: 3/16/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/2/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Transportation Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill requires DESPP to create a working group to study recommendations on parking access challenges to home health care workers providing services in residential areas. Home health care workers have struggled to find close, safe parking which can put them at risk of a getting a parking ticket or having to walk in inclement weather or in unsafe conditions.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

John Brady, Executive Vice President, AFT Connecticut

Home care providers often struggle to find safe, nearby parking when visiting patients, forcing them to walk long distances in difficult weather or unsafe conditions. The proposal to create a working group is supported, with a recommendation that it include a representative from a healthcare union representing home health workers. Their firsthand experience would help identify problems and develop practical solutions. Improving reliable and safe parking would better protect home care providers and help address workforce shortages by supporting recruitment and retention in the home healthcare field.

Lisa Capitani, Registered Nurse and home health care provider

A home health nurse expresses support for the bill, citing significant challenges with limited, costly, or unsafe parking in many downtown areas. Nurses often risk tickets or towing during long patient visits and sometimes leave notes on their cars asking not to be ticketed. However, identifying themselves as visiting nurses can create safety risks, as they may be targeted for theft because they are believed to carry medications. Given existing safety concerns in home health—highlighted by the tragic attack and murder of Connecticut visiting nurse Joyce Grayson—safe and reliable parking should not be an additional risk for healthcare workers. Studying the issue could help develop solutions that improve safety for nurses and staff.

Marlene Chickerella, President, Homecare Ass. Of America CT

Ms. Chickerella supports House Bill 5238, which creates a working group to study parking challenges faced by home health providers, but recommends including non-medical caregivers, who make up a large portion of the in-home care workforce. Limited parking in urban areas, assisted living facilities, and condominium communities often makes it difficult for caregivers to reach clients on time. HCAOA also recommends studying public transportation options, as many caregivers rely on bus lines, though limited schedules can make staffing assignments difficult—especially for Medicaid providers operating under low reimbursement rates.

Cassandra Esposito, MSN, APRN, FNP-C and President, CT Nurses Association

Home health care in Connecticut is often delivered by clinicians working alone in patients' homes, where visits may extend beyond scheduled times due to medical needs. However, parking restrictions such as meters, time limits, permit zones, and street cleaning can make access difficult and unsafe. Clinicians frequently work early mornings, evenings, or nights and may walk alone in unfamiliar areas while carrying equipment. Unlike hospitals, home settings lack security and controlled environments, increasing safety risks. Parking farther away may require multiple trips, increasing exposure and reducing situational awareness. Because municipal parking systems were not designed for mobile healthcare delivery, a statewide working group should study these challenges and recommend solutions that better align infrastructure with modern healthcare needs.

Representative Rebecca Martinez, 22nd District

Representative Martinez, drawing on 26 years in healthcare and eight years in home health nursing, emphasized the safety risks clinicians face when parking far from patients' homes due to local restrictions. She noted that healthcare workers experience workplace violence at rates far higher than other industries and described how distance from vehicles can increase vulnerability in unpredictable situations. Martinez also referenced the 2023 killing of her coworker Joyce Grayson as a reminder of these risks. She suggested studying a voluntary placard system to identify home healthcare workers and reduce parking tickets. She argued that safe, accessible parking is essential to protecting healthcare workers and supporting patient care.

Senator Marx, Deputy Majority Leader, 20th District

I support creating a working group to examine and improve parking access for home health care service providers while delivering services in residential settings. This would be a meaningful step toward enhancing worker safety during in-home visits along with their personal property. In my experience and others', we can be with a client for up to four hours depending on the level of care that is required for each patient. Additionally, service providers may find themselves working with two to four patients within the same building. Despite the efficiency

this would provide as well as the stress reduction, it would most importantly ensure worker safety. Providers sometimes need to park in unsafe or poorly lit areas when legal spots are unavailable, increasing the risk of accidents, harassment, or assault during home visits. The least we could do is vote yes to begin the study.

Seema Pillai, DNP, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, NPD-BC

Home health clinicians serve vulnerable populations but often work alone in unfamiliar environments and must travel between locations, frequently facing limited parking. Being forced to park far away increases safety risks and can rush patient care. The bill proposes a multidisciplinary working group to study parking barriers, identify affected areas, and explore solutions such as permits or designated parking. Addressing these barriers is important as demand for home-based care grows with an aging population. Parking challenges also contribute to worker burnout and inefficiencies. Studying the issue will help develop data-driven policies that support healthcare workers, improve patient care, and strengthen community-based healthcare services.

Bree Sanca, RN, MSN, VP of BH Clinical and Pediatric Operations, Elara Caring

Elara Caring serves thousands of patients statewide, particularly in Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and New Haven, with clinicians traveling daily to provide in-home care. Safe and reliable parking near patients' homes is essential for efficient service delivery. When parking is limited, clinicians face delays, longer travel times, safety risks from distant parking, and reduced time for patient care. These challenges can limit access to timely behavioral health services for vulnerable patients. HB 5238 would help policymakers better understand parking barriers facing home healthcare providers and explore practical solutions. Studying the issue is an important step toward improving workforce efficiency and ensuring patients across Connecticut receive consistent, high-quality home-based care.

Kimberly Sandor, MSN, RN, FNP, Executive Director, CT Nurses Association

Home healthcare nurses often lack designated parking when visiting patients' homes. Many must park blocks away, walk through poorly lit areas while carrying equipment, and sometimes receive parking tickets while providing care. These conditions increase safety risks, stress, and time spent searching for parking. Improving parking access could reduce time spent looking for spaces, improve safety and visibility, allow faster exits from unsafe situations, and reduce financial burdens from citations. Addressing these barriers is also important as Connecticut faces a nursing workforce shortage, where safety and support affect recruitment and retention. The bill would allow stakeholders to examine options such as statewide placards or municipal permits that allow temporary parking while care is being delivered.

Natalie Shurtleff, Associate State Director of Advocacy & Community Outreach, AARP-Connecticut

AARP supports HB 5238 because it helps remove parking barriers that make it harder for home health care workers to deliver care in patients' homes. Expanding Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) is critical to allowing older adults to remain safely in their own homes rather than moving to institutional care, which is often more costly and less preferred. A 2023 AARP survey found 95% of Connecticut residents age 45+ say it is important to stay in their homes as they age. However, there is already a shortage of direct care workers who assist with daily needs such as bathing, dressing, and transportation. By addressing parking challenges, the bill supports caregivers and helps more older adults age in place and receive care at home.

Tracy Wodatch, RN, MSN, President & CEO, The CT Association for Healthcare at Home

Unlike hospital workers, home health care clinicians including nurses, therapists, aides, hospice staff, and social workers, have no designated parking and must navigate resident-only zones, strict time limits, and limited street parking. As a result, clinicians are frequently issued parking tickets or have their vehicles towed while providing care. The costs of fines, towing fees, and time spent contesting violations create significant financial burdens and stress for providers. These expenses can delay care and discourage clinicians from accepting assignments in certain neighborhoods. Studying this issue would help the state assess the scope of ticketing and towing impacts and explore solutions such as placards or limited parking exemptions.

In addition, five people submitted testimony in support

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 60

Does not support as it does not address the root cause of the problem.

Reported by: Cindy Panioto

Date: 3/26/26