

# Human Services Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** HB-5562 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)  
**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO HUMAN SERVICES STATUTES.  
**Vote Date:** 3/19/2026  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/17/2026  
**File No.:** 446

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### 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:

**Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:** Urges passage. 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. 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 added 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 additional 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.

**Department of Aging and Disability Services, Amy Porter, Commissioner:** WSupports, especially Sections 1 and 3. New language has been included to align our current practice, to eliminate an outdated statutory case load formula, and 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.

**Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Melvette Hill, Executive Director:** supports the bill but with recommendations and emphasis on Section 4, 5 and 9. They support Section 4 and the changes to the membership of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Justice and Opportunity Network. They appreciate having a designee and administrative service for the network. They recommend maintaining 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:**

**Advancing Connecticut Together, John Merz, CEO:** 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.

**Leading Age, Mag Morelli, President:** Leading Age has consolidated their Connecticut and Rhode Island representation into one organization and requested conforming changes be made in statutes that referenced the association. Section 1 they 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 that are intended to be included. 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. Recommendation: 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.

**University of St. Joseph, Gina Rosich, Chair, Department of Social Work:** representation is an important aspect of the work in human services. Recommendation 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 often fall prey to scams and predatory lending schemes. Reporting mandates increase the likelihood of

erring on the side of caution, resulting in reporting and profession assessment, and appropriate interventions.

**North Haven Pride, Tim Gavriel, Vice-Chair:** 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.

**Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services, Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Ombudsman:** supports this bill.

**Charlotte, Sophomore Student, Ledyard High School:** Supports the bill. Reports working on a class project concerning equality for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Shared their own experience of not feeling safe as a member of the community.

**Pradipta Maurmder Orthodontist:** Submitted testimony about the need to increase Medicaid reimbursement rate.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, Matthew Barrett, President & CEO:** They are opposed to unorthodox statutory construction where whole section of federal regulations is incorporated by an overly broad federal reference into 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**