



Testimony Presented to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
on May 21, 2007

By: Jo-Ann C. Dixon, EVP/CEO
Home Health Services & Staffing Association of NJ

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Americans have learned the hard way that the significant numbers of war wounded that are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan need home care. And we at Home Health Services Association have been told that NJ has a disproportionately high representation in the war zones. As an urban State we can understand how we may see more than our share of these embattled citizens coming home and needing long-term home health care services.

We therefore value the forethought of Senator Peter A. Inverso and Senator Robert J. Martin as well as: Assemblymen Jack Connors, Mims Hackett, Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez and Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew and the other Assembly co-sponsors of A3281 in the Assembly.

This bill aimed at funding and expanding home health care services will ensure alternatives to long-term institutionalization for our returning veteran patients. These alternative programs may very well provide reduced costs to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs long-term care system and keep the patient out of an acute care bed and at home, where many prefer to be.

The average nursing home costs are approximately four times more than home care per year. In 2006 a nursing home costs averaged \$233/day; PCA program costs averaged \$62/day. This bill will help stretch health care dollars and meet the requirements of those who need it most. We therefore support this bill and are happy to work with whomever you deem necessary to help implement it and create a smooth introduction for our veterans as they return.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JoAnn C. Dixon", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

JoAnn C. Dixon
CEO