



**SEIU**Healthcare®  
United for Quality Care

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April 23, 2009

Members of the Board of Finance  
Members of the Board of Representatives  
City of Stamford  
Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard  
Stamford, CT. 06904

VIA FACSIMILE: (203)977-5030 Board of Finance &  
(203) 977-5503 Board of Representatives

Dear Members of the Board of Finance and Board of Representatives:

I write on behalf of our members at Smith House, who provide services necessary to preserve the health and quality of life of the frail elderly and disabled citizens who reside in the facility. We urge you to preserve funding for Smith House, so we can continue to provide those services, which are needed now more than ever.

Our union recognizes the extraordinarily challenging times facing all of us, and we fully appreciate the difficult strains these challenges place on Stamford's budget and taxpayers, including the hourly paid employees who are struggling to pay rent or mortgages in Stamford. We want to join you in finding solutions, but it is no solution to diminish the level of care for the elderly, who have already made their contributions and sacrifices and deserve stability and continuity in the twilight of their lives.

Sadly, funding for Smith House cannot be diminished without affecting the quality of care and services for the elderly in our community or undercutting the ability of hourly employees to support themselves and their families. While cuts to the funding of Smith House will deeply injure both nursing home residents and workers alike, those cuts will do little to address the budget challenges the City of Stamford faces. The budget for Smith House represents only a tiny fraction – far less than 1 percent – of the overall city budget. For a miniscule savings, diminished funding for Smith House will cause a disproportionate and potentially irreversible damage.

Our members at Smith House provide invaluable services to our community as caregivers to the elderly, frail and most vulnerable of Stamford's residents. We are extremely proud of the care we provide to the residents who now call Smith House "home." We know ourselves to be a vital segment in the continuum of health care for the elderly in Stamford. As residents' savings and 401(k) plans bottom out and insurance benefits disappear, those supports will become even more essential.

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We are asking you to work with us to preserve nursing home services and understand that there is no room to cut funding for Smith House without damaging or destroying those services.

I may be reached at (203) 602-6615 or (860) 251-6041 if you wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

  
Rosemary Brown  
Area Director

CC: Delegates at Smith House  
Mayor Dannel Malloy, City of Stamford (via fax 203-977-5845)