

**Testimony on HB 1  
March 13, 2017  
Concord, NH**

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Amy Moore. I am the Director of Ascentria In-Home Care, which provides personal care services for close to 400 people through CFI-- the Choices for Independence Program. I'm here on behalf of the Granite State Home Health Association.

Over 2,500 Granite Staters depend on CFI. These are low income, medically vulnerable individuals ages 18 to 100 who qualify for nursing homes, but who choose to remain in their own homes. Home Health agencies provide CFI clients with nursing visits, home health aides, personal care and homemaker services. It costs the State about \$17,500 per year to provide care for a CFI client at home, compared to more than \$56,000 for a nursing home. CFI is a good investment.

Unfortunately, the CFI program has been underfunded for years and the provider network is deteriorating. Agencies lose money or struggle to break even. There are parts of the state -- especially rural areas -- where home care agencies can't accommodate the needs of these vulnerable citizens. And healthcare workforce shortages make it harder for agencies to recruit and retain workers. At Ascentria we are currently turning away between ten to twenty cases every month because we cannot staff them. Individuals can go to work at Market Basket, McDonalds or Walmart and receive a much higher wage.

CFI home health agencies appreciated a modest rate increase in the last biennium. At Ascentria, it enabled us to provide increased training, employee benefits and bonuses. But the rates are still too low to sustain these important services. Please consider increasing the funding for CFI home health services by 8% for home health aides and personal care providers -- which are the most hard-to-fill positions -- and 5% for nurses and homemakers.

Our clients want to be at home. They don't want to burden anyone. But they need -- and deserve -- our help. Please fund the CFI program so that home care agencies can continue to care for these most fragile citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.