



*Written Testimony before the Labor and Public Employees Committee  
Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves  
Department of Social Services  
February 6, 2025*

Good afternoon, Chairs Kushner and Sanchez, Ranking Members Sampson and Weir; and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. I am Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

I am pleased to offer remarks on Senate Bill 1221.

**SENATE BILL 1221: AN ACT MAKING CHANGES TO THE CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SECURITY PROGRAM.**

This legislation would allow Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) to participate in the Connecticut Retirement Security Program. Connecticut Medicaid offers self-directed PCA services under a program that allows a Medicaid member or their representative to become an employer of the PCA and self-direct their care. These Medicaid members then hire their own staff and employ one or more PCAs to provide the services outlined in their care plans. DSS has over 7,000 Medicaid members employing over 10,000 PCAs to provide these vital home and community-based services through its Medicaid self-directed program. The PCA workforce is a critical part of the Department's service delivery system and keeps Medicaid members at home and in the community, avoiding or delaying institutionalization.

Offering PCAs the option to participate in the MyCTSAVINGS Program provides this workforce with a portable, voluntary retirement planning option that will remain available to them should their employment circumstances change. The Department supports this legislation as part of Connecticut's ongoing efforts toward the financial stability and well-being of our state's healthcare workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.