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REGIONAL HOSPICE WELCOMES \$2 MILLION STATE GRANT FOR EXPANDED PEDIATRIC SERVICES

DANBURY – Regional Hospice today welcomed a new \$2 million state grant to expand its pediatric hospice care services, ensuring that more children and families across the state have access to compassionate, specialized end-of-life care.

The state grant was secured by state **Senator Julie Kushner (D-Danbury)** in the most recent state budget after the hospice noted that the number of children ages birth to 21 in Connecticut facing life-threatening conditions is steadily increasing, but pediatric hospice service providers are lacking.

Over the next two years, this state funding will allow Regional Hospice to significantly expand its pediatric program through the addition of nurses, social workers, and therapists with specialized training in pediatric hospice care. The funding will also support educational initiatives for hospice providers statewide and enhance outreach efforts to ensure families throughout the state can access these critical services.

"For parents who are agonizing over their child's diagnosis, there is a place to turn for comfort and compassion: Regional Hospice," said **Sen. Kushner**. "I want to ensure that for everyone who needs care, it's there. This grant will help maintain and expand the great work that Regional Hospice is doing and which so many people rely on."

"We are deeply grateful to Senator Julie Kushner and the entire Danbury delegation, as well as the Public Health Committee – particularly its Chairpersons Senator Saud Anwar and representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey – for recognizing the critical importance of pediatric hospice care," said **Regional Hospice President and CEO ToniAnn Marchione**. "This grant enables us to strengthen our dedicated team of caregivers and extend comfort, dignity and support to more children and their families during the most difficult time of their lives."

“No parent imagines they’ll need hospice care for their child. This funding will put more nurses, social workers, and therapists in place so children with life-threatening conditions, and their families, have Regional Hospice by their side, offering compassion, dignity, and love when it’s needed most,” said state **Rep. Raghiv Allie-Brennan (D-Danbury)**. “I’m proud to have helped secure this investment right here in the 2nd District, where Regional Hospice continues to be a beacon of hope for families facing the unthinkable.”

Regional Hospice and Home Care of Western CT., Inc. is a nonprofit agency founded in 1983 that has been providing individualized hospice care to adults, children and babies in their private homes, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities in Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven counties for over 40 years,

Regional Hospice opened its residential Center for Comfort Care & Healing in Danbury in 2015 to offer physical comfort, emotional support and spiritual care. The agency is also partnered with Nuvance Health to provide hospice services in dedicated suites at Danbury, New Milford and Norwalk hospitals.

The majority of the agency’s adult patients (86%) are Fairfield County residents from Bethel, Brookfield, Bridgeport, Danbury, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, New Fairfield, Newtown, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Shelton, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. In FY2025, Regional Hospice cared for 1,100 patients and provided bereavement services to their families; pediatric patients come from all over the state.