

# New Haven Register

FOUNDED 1812  
INCORPORATING THE JOURNAL-COURIER, FOUNDED 1755  
A Journal Register Company Newspaper

## Journal Register

EDWARD S. CONDRA  
Publisher

JACK KRAMER, *Editor*  
CHARLES P. KOCHAKIAN, *Editorial Page Editor*  
MARK BRACKENBURY, *Managing Editor, News*  
PAT BURNAGIEL, *Vice President, Advertising*  
TIM SOLT, *Circulation Director*  
RICHARD STOLL, *Chief Financial Officer*  
RICK BOLOGNESE, *Production Director*

### EDITORIALS

### LETTERS

## Rell shortsighted to eliminate state panel on aging

As acting director of elderly services for New Haven and an unpaid, volunteer member of the Connecticut Commission on Aging, I am very troubled by Gov. M. Jodi Rell's proposal to eliminate the commission as part of her budget cutting.

This is shortsighted and will do far more harm than good, especially to the soaring population of older adults, who deserve better. In addition to the 1 million baby boomers, 600,000 people are 60 or older. By 2040, the number of people 85 and older will increase threefold.

I know firsthand that New Haven's older adults have been well-served by the commission's work since it was created by the General Assembly in 1993. The agency's nonpartisan, world-class research alone provides concrete ways to plan for a better future, including saving the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually on long-term care. Equally important, the commission provides accountability within state government.

The commission's functions are not duplicated anywhere in the executive or legislative branches of government.

Clearly, the commission's leadership role in helping Connecticut prepare for this unprecedented demographic explosion has never been more critical.

Don Dimenstein  
New Haven