



To: Chair Representative Peter Villano
Chair Senator Jonathan Harris
& Distinguished Members of the Human Services Committee

FROM: Julia Evans Starr
Executive Director
CT Commission on Aging

Date: February 20, 2007

RE: Follow-up to CoA Testimony

In response to supplemental information requested by Human Services Committee Members specific to *HB 6893, An Act Requiring that the Department of Social Services Establish a Communications and Outreach Program on Long-Term Care and the Medicare Part D Program*, the Commission is providing the following:

- suggested language amendment,
- information on the CHOICES program.
(A preliminary CHOICES budget of \$2 million dollars has been prepared and is available upon request.)
- information on Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and
- information (attached) on the national "Own Your Future" campaign.

The Commission on Aging suggests amending HB 6893 to replace the existing bill text with the following proposed bill language:

***HB 6893 AN ACT CONCERNING CHOICES AND THE AGING AND
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER GRANT PROGRAM***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. That the sum of \$2,000,000 dollars be appropriated to the Department of Social Services, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, to permit the CHOICES program to 1) empower older adults and persons with disabilities to make informed and autonomous choices about their finances, health care coverage, health and well-being, and living situations; 2) connect individuals and their caregivers to unbiased and comprehensive resource information on Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medicare supplement insurance, Medicaid, Connecticut Partnership for Long Term Care policies, entitlements and community-based services; and 3) provide training to human services professionals to help them optimally serve clients.

Section 2. That the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services shall apply to the Administration on Aging/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for an Aging and Disability Resource Center grant.

Section 3. That the Governor investigate the option of applying to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the "Own Your Future" Awareness Campaign demonstration project.

Aging and Disability Resource Center grant program:

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) grant program is intended to stimulate the development of state systems that integrate information and referral, benefits and options counseling services as well as facilitating access to publicly and privately financed long term care (LTC) services and benefits. It aims at overcoming barriers to community living for people with disabilities of all ages. The forty-three ADRC projects awarded in 2003, 2004, and 2005 serve older adults and individuals with disabilities. The program is jointly sponsored by the federal [Administration on Aging](#) (AoA) and the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS), both part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ADRC also is part of the President's Long Term Care Re-balancing Initiative and [New Freedom Initiative](#).

- Affordable choices and options that promote independence and dignity for individuals of all ages in need of long-term care services and supports.
- Consumer control and meaningful involvement in the design and delivery of the programs and services that affect their lives.
- Information that empowers people to make informed decisions.
- Easy access to a range of health, long term care and environmental supports.
- Support for family caregivers.
- Assurances that people are getting the highest quality care available.