



CT Association of Centers for Independent Living
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*Testimony Submitted to the Human Services Committee
In Support of:*

House Bill No. 5791 AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY FOR LONG-TERM CARE.

Submitted By: Gary E. Waterhouse,
Public Hearing Date: March 4, 2008

To Senator Harris, Representative Villano and members of the Human Services Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this important legislative initiative.

My name is Gary Waterhouse; I am the Executive Director of the CT. Association of Centers for Independent Living, the membership organization of Connecticut's five (5) Centers for Independent Living.

I am writing in **support** of **House Bill No. 5791 AN ACT CONCERNING A SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY FOR LONG-TERM CARE.**

A single point of entry system; serves as a coordinated structure of information and assistance in planning for and accessing long term care services. The single points of entry minimize confusion, enhance individual choice, and support informed consumer decision-making. Options Counseling is offered to improve an individual's understanding of the array of long term care supports that are available using Person Centered Planning.

A recent Mathematic study found that most Americans do not begin to explore Long Term Care (LTC) options until the need is urgent. Also, 71% of those studied do not understand the cost involved with LTC nor know where to go to attain information.

In Connecticut, Centers for Independent Living and Area Agencies on Aging have been collaborating on the dissemination of accurate information and are participating in a pilot program in the greater New Haven area under the auspices on the Department of Social Services.

The "No Wrong Door" approach to the delivery of Long-Term Care information to people with disabilities and the elderly is not only the right thing to do, but is the responsible thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 5791.