AARP™

The power to make it better.®

Testimony of AARP
On S.B. 664, An Act Concerning Independent Transportation Networks
Human Services Committee
March 11, 2008

AARP STRONGLY SUPPORTS S.B. 664, AN ACT CONCERNING INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS.

AARP supports the creation of Independent Transportation Networks to offer low-cost, multi-town rides for older persons and people with disabilities. AARP was a part of the original research done on this project in Portland, Maine. And, we believe that these self-sustaining networks should be created with state planning grants. We also support the continued funding and expansion of ITN programs as outlined in S.B. 664.

The Independent Transportation Networks (ITN) Model provides a highly consumer-oriented service that maximizes free choice and further increases mobility options for seniors and persons with disabilities. S.B. 664 would provide additional funding for the five most recently created ITN systems and also provide five additional $50,000 grants to expand the ITN program to five new communities.

Section 2 of S.B. 664, also provides protections for volunteer drivers that participate in the ITN system. This section prohibits insurers from refusing to renew and prohibits insurers from assigning a surcharge on automobile insurance premium based solely on the fact that the insured is a volunteer driver in an ITN system.

S.B. 664 sustains ITN systems already in existence, expands the ITN system into 5 new communities and ensures the appropriate protections to volunteer drivers participating in the ITN system. AARP supports this legislation as an important policy tool to expand mobility options for seniors. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 28 percent of Connecticut adults over age 65 did not drive. More than half of those non-drivers stay home on any given day because they can't find a ride.

We urge you to support S.B. 664, An Act Concerning Independent Transportation Networks.