



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR J. O'NEILL
SIXTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4200
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 264-3951
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
E-MAIL: Arthur.ONeill@housegop.ct.gov

Human Services Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
Tuesday, March 4, 2008

RANKING MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
BANKS COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Harris, Representative Villano, Senator Kissel, Representative Gibbons, Senator Coleman, Representative Abercrombie, and Human Services Committee Membership:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify on House Bill 561 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROJECT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A LONG-TERM CARE TRUST FUND." I would also like to thank Joe Stango for bringing this issue to my attention, and for his tireless efforts on behalf of this legislation. This bill is intended to build on the progress made by Section 17b-369 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes to not only expand the Money Follows the Person demonstration project, but to also establish a "Long-Term Care Trust Fund" in order to provide funds for alternative long-term care.

As our state's population ages, it is important that we give seniors and their families a real choice for long-term care. This bill redirects the focus of long-term care in Connecticut from institutions to home and community services and supports. As we all know, in a time of need, it is both comforting and productive for us to be at home and within our community.

It is my belief that no individual should be required to be in an institution to receive reimbursement for services and support that can be effectively and efficiently delivered in the home or community. Furthermore, this proposal would allow people of all ages to receive assistance in paying for such services as bathing, occupational therapy, meal preparation and other assisted living services and supports that provide a real choice for suitable home and community care for the people of Connecticut.

I thank the Committee for giving this bill a public hearing and ask that it please be voted upon favorably.