



# TOWN OF ENFIELD

## *SOCIAL SERVICES*

March 11, 2008

Members of the State of Connecticut Committee on Transportation:

My name is Pamela Brown and I am the Director of Social Services for the Town of Enfield. In this role, I oversee the town's Dial-a-Ride Program. I am here to support SB 1093 for full funding for the Municipal Matching Grants for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities.

There is no local public transportation in the Town of Enfield. Our Dial-a-Ride program provides a lifeline to more than 250 seniors and disabled residents and currently provides approximately 40,000 rides annually. Without this state funding the town would be forced to reduce our capacity by 20%. For Enfield this would mean that we would not be able to operate five days per week and that we would provide 8,000 fewer trips annually.

The Dial-A-Ride program (currently \$3.9 million) funds about 136 towns in Connecticut to provide essential transportation for those in the community who are 60 years and older or who have a disability and may have limited or no access to public transportation.

State funds not only create transportation solutions that provide for the mobility and independence of the elderly and people with disabilities, but also help their family members keep their jobs because their loved ones are being safely transported to their destinations.

Dial-A-Ride funding provides access to medical care that keeps seniors and people with disabilities healthy longer and living independently for a greater cost savings to the state.

Dial-A-Ride funding enables seniors and people with disabilities to spend their money and time in the marketplace, boosting our economy.

Funding for transportation for seniors and the disabled must be restored in the State of Connecticut's Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 budget.

Thank you