



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF NUTRITION AND AGING SERVICE PROVIDERS

Testimony to the Appropriations committee on behalf of Connecticut Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers.

2/11/10

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations committee. We are writing to thank the Governor and the members of the Appropriations committee and full General Assembly for their continued support for Elderly Nutrition Programs. We were pleased to see that in her latest round of budget adjustments, the Governor did not propose cuts to Elderly Nutrition. As you continue working on your midterm budget adjustments, we respectfully request that you maintain funding for Elderly Nutrition as the Governor has and as you have in recent years.

While your continued support has made it clear that you understand the benefits of Elderly Nutrition, we feel some facts bear repeating. Being the largest program in community based services; Elderly Nutrition not only provides adequate nutrition but is the foremost defense against premature client institutionalization. While the program has received some stimulus money this year, which has helped to recover some of the loss felt in the past few years, the recession has increased the need dramatically. The stimulus money is a short term band-aid, and not nearly enough to allow us to continue to serve the need if the State portion of our funding were to be reduced.

We are continuously making attempts to decrease costs by working with our local municipalities and legislators in an effort to identify cost saving methods, seek additional local funding or cost sharing initiatives, and decrease expenditures wherever possible. Today, as a result of the recession, carry-over funds are non existent, donations have decreased, other resources have been maxed out and the sponsor agencies lack the resources to carry the funding burden.

We are sure that the benefits of adequate nutrition are evident. Good nutrition results in good health and continued independence. For most individuals Meals on Wheels services are able to prolong more expensive home care, hospitalization or nursing home placement. Having meals delivered daily to elderly people living independently has the additional benefit of ensuring there is at least one person checking in to see that everything is generally okay. Meals on Wheels and Congregate meals for the elderly are critical safety net services that help keep long term costs down for our State. A reduction in funding for this service will leave elderly people hungry, at risk of becoming ill and will only lead to increased costs.

Please continue your support for Elderly Nutrition Programs and help us maintain our ability to service this population while keeping costs down for our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Joel Sekorski, Elderly Nutrition Supervisor Torrington, CT & CANASP President