



*An independent, nonpartisan office of the Connecticut General Assembly*

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Testimony of

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*Senate Bill 249: An Act Concerning Use of the Term "Assisted Living"*  
Joint Committee on Public Health

March 1, 2010

Thank you for this opportunity to comment today on this issue of import to older adults, families with children and to the effective, efficient administration of state government.

As you know, the Connecticut Commission on Aging (CoA) is an independent, nonpartisan state agency that is part of the legislative branch of government. We are devoted to preparing our state for a burgeoning aging population while promoting policies that enhance the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For sixteen years, the Commission has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities.

In these difficult budget times, research-based initiatives, statewide planning efforts, vision and creative thinking are all needed and provided by the CoA. We pledge to continue to assist our state in finding solutions to our fiscal problems, while keeping its commitments to critical programs and services.

Senate Bill 249 will protect consumers by providing them the assurance that a facility that advertises "assisted living" is providing services that are regulated by the state Department of Public Health. Unfortunately, some facilities have advertised the provision of these types of services over the years, without those services being provided by a state-licensed Assisted Living Services Agency (ALSA).

Connecticut is expected to have a 64% increase in the number of individuals aged 65 and up over the next twenty years. Providing appropriate housing options will be paramount to ensuring that individuals have choice, independence and dignity in how and where they age—as well as ensuring that our state meets the mandates set by the federal *Olmstead* decision. The 2007 Long-Term Care Needs Assessment, conducted by the UConn Center on Aging found that almost sixty percent of respondents think it is likely that they will live in an assisted living facility as they age.

It should also be noted that last year's bill on this topic received a fiscal note indicating zero fiscal impact.

We ask for your support of this bill.

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