Caring From
Every Perspective

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Testimony to the Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 17, 2010

Molly Rees Gavin

Esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Molly Rees Gavin and I am the president of Connecticut Community Care, Inc. (CCCI) a statewide, nonprofit organization providing services to Connecticut elders for the last quarter century. Last year alone CCCI served over 12,000 elders through the Connecticut Home Care Program (CHCP).

In addition to individual client and family services, CCCI has provided sound public policy contributions to state lawmakers and administrators for decades.

I am here today to commend the work of the Connecticut Commission on Aging. I have had the experience of working directly with Commission volunteer citizen members and staff on any number of critical issues throughout the last decade. I can speak first hand to the knowledge, expertise and work ethic of this "small but mighty" group.

The Commission is the driving force behind the Long-Term Care Advisory Council (of which I am an active member) and, in this capacity, the Commission has enhanced communication, planning and advocacy on behalf of the Connecticut elders and their families.

Commission staff judiciously informs the ongoing development of the State's Long Term Care Plan and the work of the Long Term Care Planning Committee comprised of state agency representatives and members of the General Assembly.

Professional expertise of Commission volunteers and staff spans the gamut of elder care issues; from health care to home care to transportation; assessing current status and planning for future needs. Significantly, the independent status of the Commission offers seasoned objectivity in the face of competing demands.

Given the unprecedented and ever increasing demand for long term care services, the State can ill afford to eliminate the fact-based research, analysis, integration and advocacy provided by the Commission on Aging.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak before your esteemed Committee.