Connecticut Bar Association

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**Elder Law Section**
**Connecticut Bar Association**

**In OPPOSITION to SB28**
**The Elimination of the Commission on Aging**

**Government Administration and Elections Committee**
**March 17, 2010**

The Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association consists of over 500 attorneys who work on a daily basis with the needs of the elderly in the State of Connecticut.

Even in today's economy and in light of the state budget, we have a concern with the proposed elimination or downsizing of the Commission on Aging (COA).

The Commission of Aging leads efforts to identify, prioritize and promote the needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities. It is through their research and assessments that they have become a resource to legislators on a myriad of daily aging issues. There is no other organization that has this role.

The Commission on Aging also serves as a facilitator, convenor, and leader among the numerous organizations in the State that focus on aging. No elder citizen wishes to enter a nursing home as a resident. It is their preference to stay in their home as long as it is physically and financially possible. Through COA assessments, they were instrumental in identifying and implementing the re-balancing efforts in Connecticut. This is a move that is essential to elders who wish to remain at home or in the community as their needs for home health care services increase, thus avoiding institutional care.

It is our hope that you may leave the Commission on Aging intact, and let them continue to provide their great service to the State and to its senior population.