

**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510
Voice (203) 946-7833 • TTY (203) 946-8582 • Fax (203) 946-6934



Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.

Michelle M. Duprey Esq. • Director
Kristin Barber • Assistant Coordinator

March 17, 2010

Testimony for the General Administration and Elections Committee

Oppose – SB 28 – An Act Consolidating State Agencies and Eliminating Certain Legislative Commissions

Ladies and Gentleman:

I request that you not approve the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Commission on Aging. The Commission on Aging is the lead agency for the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, of which I am a member, and as such plays a critical role in development of leadership on state policy affecting the elderly and people with disabilities. The circumstance of both groups will suffer immensely if the Commission on Aging is eliminated as well as cost the state in other ways.

For decades, the State of Connecticut has seen many issues as being based on diagnosis or age, but in reality, that is not the most effective strategy. The Commission on Aging has led the way to educate leaders that limitations and barriers affect those with a variety of diagnosis for both young and old and the state needs to dismantle the artificial barriers to its programs based on these criteria. The Commission on Aging has taken a lead role in developing a long term strategy to meet the needs of elderly and people with disabilities. The biggest example of this is the Commission on Aging lead role in the Long Term Care Strategic plan. The Plan will lead the state to a better provision of services and better public policy.

The State of Connecticut does not have a commission for people with disabilities, even though more than 500,000 residents live with disabilities. Seeing the commonality of issues, the Commission on Aging has stepped in and provides expert knowledge to the legislator on both groups. The elimination of the Commission will have detrimental affect on the 439,000 elder and the 547,000 people with disabilities in our state. Please give thoughtful consideration to the incredible value of this agency and vote against SB 28, eliminating the Commission on Aging.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle M. Duprey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle M. Duprey