



State of Connecticut

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Senator Andrea Stillman, Senate Chairman
Representative Antonio Guerrero, House Chairman
Senator Toni Boucher, Ranking Member
Representative David Scribner, Ranking Member

Date: March 7, 2011 Public Hearing

Re: Testimony in support of raised **Senate Bill 700**, *An Act Concerning The State Matching Grant Program For Municipal And Regional "Dial-A-Ride" Programs*

Thank you for offering Senate Bill 700 a public hearing. **Raised Senate Bill 700** seeks to restore funding for the state Municipal Grant Program for regional demand responsive transportation for the elderly and disabled.

The Municipal Grant Program provides \$146,000 in annual funding to the lower river valley's regional transit district. This "Dial-A-Ride" program translates into more than four thousand hours of door-to-door transportation services for the elderly and disabled every year.

In 2010, the Municipal Grant Program provided approximately 7,000 passenger trips to more than 700 individual users in our service area. The proposed 25 per cent grant cut perhaps seems modest on its surface. However, a cut of this size would mean a reduction of four hours of service per day. This would mean that seniors and disabled passengers would see their ability to access work, medical appointments and adult day care programs substantially limited.

Municipalities are being urged to seek cost effective, regional approaches to providing services. The Municipal Grant Program does just that. It provides regional transportation services in a proven and effective way. I respectfully request your reconsideration of the proposed 25% budget reduction.