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Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 700, An Act Concerning The State Matching Grant Program For Municipal And Regional Demand Responsive Transportation For Persons With a Disability Who Are Sixty Or More Years Of Age.

Transportation Committee

Senator Kevin Kelly

March 7, 2011

Chairmen Maynard and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. No. 700, *An Act Concerning The State Matching Grant Program For Municipal And Regional Demand Responsive Transportation For Persons With a Disability Who Are Sixty Or More Years Of Age*. This bill would restore funding to the state matching grant program for municipal and regional dial-a-ride programs to FY 06 and FY 07 funding levels.

We all agree that aging in place is important to the individual as well as the state in its efforts to rebalance our long term care dollars away from institutionalization and towards home care. In order to accomplish this, we must develop the necessary infrastructure to create a robust home care industry that can manage both our current aging population and the baby boomer population.

One component of that infrastructure is transportation, particularly for those who can not drive. The state matching grant program is an essential element of that infrastructure because it enables seniors to become active members of their community, participate in events at seniors centers, get to doctors appointments, go shopping, and fulfill their religious and recreational needs.

Again, thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. Providing seniors access to transportation services is critical to affording them the opportunity to age in place with control and dignity, and I urge the committee to support this legislation