

Appropriations Committee February 22, 2012 Public Hearing  
Re: Commission on Aging Fiscal 2013 Budget

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Bill Eddy. I have been a volunteer on behalf of the older adult population since the early 1990's when I retired as a financial services executive. I am currently Treasurer of the Commission on Aging and a Corporator for Connecticut Community Care, Inc.

I am here to request that the Appropriations Committee seriously consider beginning to restore the Commission on Aging budget toward the \$518,395 originally proposed for the 2013 second year of the Governor's biennial budget rather than maintaining the continued severe austerity level proposed in the Appropriations Committee budget for the 2013 fiscal year at \$280,569. True it is the second year of the same biennium figure approved last year but a lot has happened since then and I cannot remain silent.

The Commission on Aging small staff has prevailed through the draconian cuts that averaged 40% of salary since they were implemented in 2011. During that time the small staff has provided exemplary leadership and support to the hugely expensive (13% of the state budget) long term care arena which the state is trying to bring under control. The Commission's recently completed and distributed RBA report card is testimony to the accomplishments and involvements and is attached to these remarks.

The Commission's leadership on and important working relationship involvements in research, policy promotion, and restructuring and implementation activities with budget impact implications being targeted by the Governor in the long term care field, are highly regarded by DSS and other agencies of government, consultants, providers, and advocates as well as the older adult consumers which the Commission represents within the Legislative branch.

Please consider and weigh that the Governor is currently targeting Health and Human Services/Long Term Care Rebalancing initiatives for a heavy duty, cost savings financial reason that will be spread over years of restructuring and implementation in which the Commission on Aging is deeply involved.

Also, please consider that the skill sets, knowledge, extensive relationships and accomplishments of the small, creative, self-sufficient, and efficient Commission on Aging staff are highly valued in the market place right now regardless of the economy. They need to be supported along with the program/restructuring component under the DSS Executive branch agency. What this Commission is effectively providing in the way of hands-on support is squarely in the wheelhouse of major, difficult to control, long term care expense and delivery issues with which all states and the Federal Government are now consumed and will be for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
William Eddy, Treasurer, Commission on Aging

Attachment: RBA Report Card