

February 29, 2012

Raised Bill No. 235 - Act Concerning Municipal Agents for the Elderly

My name is Edward "Buddy" Meadows. I am a Senior Center Coordinator/Municipal Agent for the Sprague Senior Center in Baltic, CT. I am giving this testimony as Edward "Buddy" Meadows and am not associated with any other organization.

When becoming aware of this act, I was dismayed to learn the Department of Social Services wanted less participation between the two. The Town of Sprague has a population of over 3,000 people. Of that 3,000 people approximately 800 are senior citizens. These seniors have no other organizations to go to for any type of help. The Town of Sprague, which consists of the Villages of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles, has a poverty level of 26 percent. There is no other social service organization for the 800 or so seniors to go to but to come to me as a Municipal Agent for the Elderly.

The Department of Social Services is over burdened now – what will happen if these seniors fall through the cracks? The Department of Social Services is encountering many difficulties – child abuse, foster home care, etc. Our seniors will be displaced and have nowhere to turn except to call or go to Hartford or surrounding areas. It is very imperative that we keep on Municipal Agents in each of the towns for the reasons I have mentioned. The Raised Bill No. 235 should be dissolved.

The Town of Sprague is a small town. I have helped many seniors with food, heating assistances, rental rebates, Probate concerns, medical transportation, and senior abuse. Who will assist them – Norwich, New London or Hartford? Many of these seniors do not have vehicles and I personally go to their homes or to Sprague Senior Housing. We definitely need more interaction between the two not less.

Let us keep our senior citizens well informed of the services which are afforded to them. The Municipal Agents and the Department of Social Services have to combine their strategies that will benefit all.

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