



**Testimony of AARP on  
H.B. 5150— AAC the Connecticut Uniform Adult Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act  
March 5, 2012**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. On behalf of our nearly 600,000 Connecticut members, we are pleased to offer AARP's support for H.B. 5150, which adopts the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceeding Jurisdiction Act (UGPPJA).

AARP strongly supports this bill to protect the interests of vulnerable incapacitated adults who need guardians and to make the guardianship system function more efficiently, fairly and cost-effectively nationwide. In brief, the uniform act provides guidance to the courts on how to resolve common questions and frequently expensive extra court proceedings that develop when a guardianship case involves more than one state. It does not change state substantive law but rather fills a gap by creating a uniform set of rules to sort out sticky multi-state issues. And, these changes would have no budget impact.

Twenty-nine (29) states plus the District of Columbia have adopted the UGPPJA with scarcely any opposition. The uniform act is currently pending in eight additional state legislatures. In addition to Connecticut, the uniform act is also under consideration in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maine, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Mississippi. As with any uniform act, to reach its intended purpose, all states need to adopt it. The absence of an effective inter-jurisdictional system promotes forum-shopping; hurts vulnerable adults and their families; and costs money and time for state court systems and the individuals involved in the cases.

The UGPPJA has broad range of support from organizations including the National College of Probate Judges, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Guardianship Association, Conference of Chief Justices and the Alzheimer's Association. One key reason AARP supports the bill is our concern over elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The uniform act can reduce the incidence of elder abuse in a myriad of ways. These include:

- reducing "granny-snatching"—removing or enticing a vulnerable person to another state—to gain control over a vulnerable person's assets or life decisions through forum shopping;
- permitting a court to consider which jurisdiction can best protect a person subject to abuse;
- facilitating communication between courts in different states about allegations of abuse; and
- transferring cases between states to remove individuals from abusive situations.

AARP supports the adoption of this uniform law and encourages Judiciary Committee members to favorably support H.B. 5150.