



**Testimony to the  
Judiciary Committee  
Regarding**

**Senate Bill 443, An Act Concerning Illegal Electronic Monitoring  
Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut**

**March 23, 2012**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the President of LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership association of over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the entire continuum of long term care including forty-six nursing homes. (*LeadingAge Connecticut was formerly known as the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging or CANPFA.*) LeadingAge Connecticut members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community and municipal organizations and are dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging.

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut I would like to submit the following testify on **Senate Bill 443, An Act Concerning Illegal Electronic Monitoring.**

LeadingAge Connecticut would like to raise one concern with Senate bill 443 which proposes to establish criminal penalties for the electronic monitoring of a person when such electronic monitoring is conducted without legal authorization or consent of the person. Our concern centers on the current use of **wander management systems** designed to assist in dementia care settings, including facility based, residential and community based settings. Currently this technology is used quite extensively in caregiver settings to sound an alert if there is an elopement or an attempt to leave the building or area unattended. As more care is provided at home, much research is being done to improve the technologies so that reliable tracking systems can be provided in the home setting. Because the systems are being used to ensure the health and safety of individuals with dementia, the question of consent, as defined in the bill, is raised.

We believe that wander management systems can play a valuable role in the care of persons with dementia. Therefore, if wander management systems are the intended subject of this bill, we would urge the committee to reconsider. However, if these systems are not intended to be the subject of this legislation, we would respectfully ask that an exception be made to allow for their continued use.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. LeadingAge Connecticut would be willing to discuss any concerns with regard to the use of wander management systems and to work with the Committee on any necessary amendments or revisions to the language of the bill.

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