**H.B. #6350 An Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 2015, and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue**

Founded in 1974, the Connecticut Coalition on Aging (CCOA) promotes actions that improve the quality of life for Connecticut's older adults. As CCOA president, I respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee support the Commission on Aging (COA) and continue to utilize it on long term care and aging issues:

- Utilizing a representative and knowledgeable volunteer board, COA helps shape effective public policy to meet the growing needs of the older adult population in our state.

- COA provides the Legislature, state agencies and the public with information and research on best practices, national trends, public policy, regulations and needs related to senior housing, health care and transportation for older adults.

- COA has gathered a broad spectrum of advocates and providers who bring knowledge of their districts and issues related to aging from throughout the state in order to work toward achieving a seamless statewide system of long term care.

- COA provides leadership, information and support for the Connecticut Elder Action Network (CEAN), the Connecticut Long Term Care Advisory Council and the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee.

- COA has taken a leadership role on the issue of Livable Communities and aging by bringing together municipalities, providers, consumers and advocates at a time when we face an expanding older adult population.

In this critical time for aging and long term care, I encourage the Appropriations Committee to sustain the very important work of the Commission on Aging.