Caring From
Every Perspective

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Appropriations Committee Testimony
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HB 6354, Section 90 - OPPOSE

Good Evening

My name is Molly Rees Gavin. I am the president of Connecticut Community Care, Inc. (CCCI), a statewide, nonprofit community-based organization providing conflict-free care management and related services to thousands of Connecticut citizens every year.

I am here this evening in strong support of the Commission on Aging; hence, in **opposition to HB 6354, Section 90** that proposes to consolidate the legislative commissions and eliminate the Commission on Aging.

I have worked with older adults and their families in Connecticut for forty years; in the acute care hospital, skilled nursing facility and community care settings. I possess the knowledge and decades of experience to speak on this topic. I worked in Connecticut with and without a Department on Aging and assure you that the role of the Commission on Aging is unequivocally distinct from any such department. The role of the Commission is advocacy, research and fiscally sound policy recommendation on behalf of our state's elders and their families.

You are all acutely aware of the "aging of our state" (ranks 7th in the US), and the exponential increase in our elder population within the two decade. You have heard all too often that a 64% increase is expected by 2030. Connecticut, like many other states, struggles with the realities of Medicaid expenditures for long-term services and supports, individuals spending down all their assets and needing to accept Medicaid assistance in their later years, and families trying to cope with a myriad of care expectations and concerns.

The Commission on Aging is your "go to" organization for thoughtful, judicious research and recommendations on issues regarding elders and their families in Connecticut. The Commission brings together in a variety of venues the articulate voices of citizens, professionals, state administrators and other stakeholders to assess the needs and expectations of our aging state and to develop sound policy solutions. The Commission plays a key leadership role in the Money Follows the Person initiative, the Long Term Care Advisory Council and the Connecticut Elder Action Network. Simply stated, if I were in your shoes, I would need the small but mighty Commission on Aging to do a credible job as a legislator.