



**Testimony of LeadingAge Connecticut**

**Submitted to the**

**Housing Committee**

**In Support of House Bill 6366, An Act Concerning the Establishment  
of the Department of Housing**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013**

LeadingAge Connecticut is a membership organization representing over 130 mission-driven and not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care including affordable senior housing. Our housing members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, community, and governmental organizations that are committed to providing quality housing, care and services to their residents.

LeadingAge Connecticut appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Governor's proposal contained in House Bill 6366, An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Housing.

LeadingAge Connecticut is a strong proponent of the model of linking affordable senior housing with long term services and supports; a model that enables older adults to remain in the community and to age in place. We believe this model is one of the answers to our state's quest to balance the long term care system. Connecticut has already developed several nationally acclaimed models of housing with services including allowing assisted living services to be delivered within our state congregate and HUD 202 housing sites and the four pilot affordable assisted living demonstration sites. We have excellent models that we would like to see encouraged and replicated to meet the growing needs of our elderly population.

LeadingAge Connecticut has been very supportive of the creation of a state Department of Housing to oversee and coordinate the functions of state government related to senior housing. We are hopeful that moving the many and varied senior housing and related service programs, included the affordable assisted living programs, into the new department will help to address the fragmented responsibilities, inflexible funding streams, and regulatory constraints that currently impede efforts to develop and coordinate senior housing with health care and other services.

We would encourage the Department of Housing to recognize the unique role and needs of elderly housing sites and to call upon the expertise of elderly housing providers for consultation and advice and we would encourage the addition of elderly housing representation to the membership of the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing.

Thank you for consideration of these submitted comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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