LeadingAge Connecticut

Testimony of LeadingAge Connecticut
Submitted to the
Appropriations Committee, Housing Committee, and Human Services Committee
In Support of the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing Report and Recommendations
Tuesday, January 29, 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, and community organizations that are committed to providing quality housing, care and services to their residents.

LeadingAge Connecticut appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing's report and recommendations. We are impressed by the work that has been done by the Interagency Council on Affordable Housing and the report that has been produced can serve as an excellent resource to the General Assembly.

We are very pleased that the report has recommended addressing the housing needs of the state's elderly population be classified as a priority. LeadingAge Connecticut is a strong proponent of the model of linking affordable senior housing with services; a model that enables older adults to remain in their 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 continues to be 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 the recommendations to move 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. On behalf of the not-for-profit senior housing provider members of LeadingAge Connecticut, we offer our assistance to both the Council and the Department of Housing. We would also 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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