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**Testimony of  
Teresa C. Younger  
Executive Director  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Aging Committee  
February 5, 2013**

**Re: H.B. 5764, AA Increasing Temporary Family Assistance Benefits for Grandparents and Other Nonparent Caretaker Relatives  
H.B. 5757, AA Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly**

Senators Ayala and Kelly, Representatives Serra and Adinolfi, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) on H.B. 5764 and H.B. 5757.

**H.B. 5764, AA Increasing Temporary Family Assistance Benefits for Grandparents and Other Nonparent Caretaker Relatives**

H.B. 5764 would provide equal benefits to grandparents and caretaker relatives who are raising children regardless of whether the child is committed to the Department of Children and Families. Passage of this bill would potentially benefit 61,408 Connecticut children (7.5% of all children living in the state) are living in grandparent-headed or nonparent caretaker households.

***CT Specific Data<sup>1</sup>***

*The Children*

- 45,922 children under age 18 live in grandparent-headed households (5.6% of all children in the state)
- 15,486 children under age 18 live in nonparent relative households (1.9% of all children in the state).
- Of the children above, 18,195 live in homes where grandparents are completely responsible for their welfare; with 7,161 having no parents present in the home.

*The Grandparents*

- 19,153 grandparents are the householders responsible for grandchildren living with them.
- 50% are White, 26% are Black/African-American, 21% are Hispanic/Latino, and 3% are Asian.
- 36% have no parents of the children present in the home.

<sup>1</sup> AARP Foundation. *Connecticut GrandFacts*. Accessed February 1, 2013 at [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org). Data based on U.S. Census Bureau 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Detailed Table B09006 and Subject Tables S1001 and S1002.

- 65% are under age 60.
- 16% live at 100% of the federal poverty level.

If H.B. 5764 economically eligible grandparents and nonparent caretakers could receive on average of \$746 to \$875 for one child from the Department of Children and Families' subsidized program versus the "child only" TFA payment averaging \$344 a month for one child.<sup>2</sup>

It would be beneficial to provide all the financial assistance that is available to assist these grandparents and nonparent caretakers in raising these children.

### **H.B. 5757, AA Increasing Eligibility for the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly**

H.B. 5757 would extend eligibility to the Connecticut Home-Care Program for the Elderly to those with assets of \$40,000 for single individuals and \$65,000 for married couples. This bill could benefit Connecticut seniors who represent 14% of the state population.

#### ***Impact on Connecticut Women:***<sup>3</sup>

- 14% of Connecticut's population are aged 65 and over – 285,405 women and 202,650 men.
- Within the senior population, 59% are female and 41% are male.
- 66% of Connecticut residents over the age of 85 are female.

Access to the Home-Care Program insures that elders and people with disabilities remain in their homes, rather than long-term care institutions. Passage of this bill would allow these individuals to remain independent through self-directed care in a community setting.

We look forward to working with you to address these important issues. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> Office of Legislative Research Report. *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*, 2008-R-0048, January 31, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, 2009 Population Estimates.