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**COMMITTEE ON AGING  
IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 5350  
AN ACT CONCERNING AN ASSISTANT TO THE  
LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN  
MARCH 4, 2014**

My name is Kevin Brophy, and I am the Director of Elder Law for Connecticut Legal Services, a non-profit legal aid agency. My testimony is submitted on behalf of CT's low income elderly clients who reside in nursing homes.

Raised Bill No. 5350 would add an Assistant State Ombudsman to the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. This new position would provide, among other things: services to protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents; technical assistance to regional ombudsman; help with identifying and investigating complaints; and the continued development of resident and family councils.

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman currently advocates for 37,000 residents, who live in nursing homes, residential care facilities and assisted living facilities. Legal Services often refers long term care residents to the State or Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman. Through their intervention, residents are able to resolve complaints in a positive way with the facility. This is a significant benefit to the resident, their family, and the facility.

However, the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman is understaffed, and by adding an Assistant State Ombudsman, this office will be better able to provide greater advocacy for residents in long term care facilities. This position would also free the State Ombudsman from some of her responsibilities as Program manager, so she could play a more significant role in developing policy.

I urge you to support Raised bill No. 5350.

Kevin Brophy  
Director of Elder Law  
CT Legal Services

