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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary Tomolonius

Date: February 19, 2014

To: The Appropriations Committee

RE: **Governor Malloy's Proposed Cut to TEIP Funding in the DSS  
Budget**

From: Mary Tomolonius, CACT Executive Director

Email: [appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov)

The Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) urges you to appropriate the funds needed for public transportation services across the state that provide affordable rides to jobs, job interviews, and job training for Connecticut's urban and rural residents. The Department of Social Services proposed budget ("Transportation For Employment Independence" Budget) eliminates \$1 million in funding. This will have an immediate and significant impact on our most vulnerable citizens. For example, the potential elimination of:

- Northwest Region: Childcare reservation project in Waterbury; JobsLinks (whose riders could be in jeopardy of losing their employment because of transportation), Car Based Solution, Gas cards;
- Southeast Region: Saturday bus hours, impacting retail and food service workers who rely on public transportation to get to their jobs
- Housatonic Area: the three evening/Sunday/holiday bus routes are partially funded through this program
- Southwestern Connecticut (New Haven Counties and parts of Fairfield): Coastal Link: A reduction in service hours, frequency and service span
- Eastern Region (a rural area with limited bus service): taxi service, car based solutions & mileage reimbursement; funding for a portion of a fixed route service.

The bus service reduction disproportionately affects those very people who rely on public transportation. The reductions in service further erode an individual's ability to get to their job. Let's not leave our most vulnerable citizens stranded with no options.

We need to invest in public transportation by making it more accessible, not less.

If CACT may be of assistance to you, please contact me at (860) 693-0368. CACT's email address is [mary.cact@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cact@yahoo.com). Thank you.