



## Real Possibilities

Testimony of AARP CT  
S.B. 329: An Act Concerning Long-Term Care  
March 11, 2014  
Human Services Committee

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

AARP appreciates the opportunity to comment on S.B. 329: *An Act Concerning Long-Term Care* and suggest changes to strengthen the proposal. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, 602,000 of whom live right here in Connecticut. Our mission includes helping people age 50 and up turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthening communities and fighting for the issues that matter most to families such as long-term care, aging in place, caregiving and financial security.

AARP strongly supports the objective of S.B. 329 to collect information and make recommendations that address gaps in Connecticut's long-term care system and improve access to services, especially those available in home and community based settings. AARP strongly supports proposals that help older adults stay at home for as long as they wish.

The study proposed in S.B. 329 would supplement the research from Connecticut's Strategic Rebalancing Plan and benchmark our progress on Money Follows the Person and other rebalancing efforts. However, we believe the legislation would be stronger if the scope of the study also included the essential role of unpaid family caregivers. We encourage this Committee to entertain recommendations for better supporting family caregivers in our state.

When an aging parent, spouse or loved one needs help to remain in their home, the vast majority rely on unpaid family caregivers. These caregivers are the backbone of our long-term care system. The care that Connecticut family caregivers provide is estimated to be worth \$5.8 billion per year.

Given the important role they play in our long-term care system, AARP respectfully asks the Committee to expand the scope of the study to include an assessment of family caregivers and recommendations to support their efforts. Thank you in advance for your consideration. AARP looks forward to working with you to strengthen the proposal outlined in S.B. 329.