

Testimony of

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(CAMAEE)

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Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs and members of the Aging Committee,

Good Morning. I'd like to express some of my thoughts regarding raised S.B. No. 1002. An act concerning senior centers.

This bill addresses many of the issues I and my colleagues often discuss. The fact is Connecticut as a state offers very little in resources and training but senior center personnel and municipal agents provide many services which enable our elderly to remain in their homes longer.

Presently the CT Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly (CAMAEE) and the CT Association of Senior Center Personnel (CASCP) provide the training for their groups. Many are members of both and attend both. A great deal more needs to be done both for the new Directors and Municipal Agents as well as to get Connecticut headed in the right direction with the baby boomers. As the workers change and the elderly population grows the demand for training will explode.

Both groups would welcome a partnership with SDA and DSS to provide more training, resources and services.

Florida, Kentucky and Massachusetts are states who are very forward thinking and provide us with some of the material we use. At times if I have a question or am looking for information I'll go to one of those sites. Some of us have looked at Massachusetts (MCOA) certification program and would like to bring that to Connecticut so Senior Center personnel and Municipal Agents can be become certified.

There is a great deal of outstanding work being done in Connecticut right now but we must do a great deal more. Connecticut must pave the way as we become an aging state. The number of children decrease each year but the number of elderly increases each year.

If so chosen I'd be deeply honored to serve on this task force and look forward to their report.