

Testimony of

Mary Jo Riley, Groton Senior Center Supervisor

President, Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel

March 3, 2015

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

I would like comment regarding raised S.B. No. 1002. An act concerning senior centers.

As a Senior Center Supervisor for the past twenty years, my colleagues and I focus our energies on providing services to seniors of our state with little or no support in the past from the state. I welcome the positive change in looking at ways to support the senior centers and municipal agents in the state of Connecticut. The monies that towns and cities provide for senior centers and municipal agents serve far more seniors than having seniors in nursing care facilities. Senior Centers and municipal agents work to keep seniors as active parts of our communities, continuing to pay taxes, support local businesses and volunteer within our communities.

I have in the past looked at other states including our neighbor Massachusetts for their training and certification of senior center personnel. There is a huge opportunity for Connecticut to collaborate with our neighbor to provide this prospect for Connecticut Senior Center personnel. With the new Department on Aging, I see new openings for strengthening the front line efforts of Senior Centers and Municipal Agents.

I am pleased to see that a task force is proposed and would support it in any way possible.