



## Testimony to the Housing Committee

February 17, 2015

In Support of

**Senate Bill 888, An Act Concerning Adequate and Safe Housing for the Elderly and Younger Persons with Disabilities**

**Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut**

[LeadingAge Connecticut](#) is a statewide membership organization representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long term care, services and supports including not-for-profit providers of affordable senior housing. Our housing members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, and community organizations that are committed to providing quality housing, care and services to their residents. We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on Senate Bill 888, *An Act Concerning Adequate and Safe Housing for the Elderly and Younger Persons with Disabilities*.

Affordable housing should be available to all those who need it and as a state we should strive to meet that need. There is currently a growing need for affordable housing with long term services and supports both for older adults and for persons with disabilities. LeadingAge Connecticut supports this bill before you today which would assess that need and hopefully produce a report that will guide and encourage future affordable housing development. I would also encourage including the Commissioners of the Department of Social Services and the State Department on Aging in the study as their respective departments oversee many of the services provided to older adults in affordable housing.

LeadingAge Connecticut is a strong proponent of the model of linking affordable senior housing with long term services and supports; a model that enables older adults to remain in the community and to age in place. We believe this model is one of the answers to our state's quest to balance the system of long term services and supports. Connecticut has already developed several nationally acclaimed models of senior housing with services including allowing assisted living services funded through the Home Care Program for Elders to be delivered within our state congregate and HUD 202 housing sites, and within the four pilot affordable assisted living demonstration sites. We have excellent models of providing affordable housing with services that we would like to see encouraged and replicated to meet the growing needs of our elderly population.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mag Morelli, President



(203) 678-4477, [mmorelli@leadingagect.org](mailto:mmorelli@leadingagect.org)

110 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492 [www.leadingagect.org](http://www.leadingagect.org)