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Written Testimony before the Human Services Committee

Elizabeth B. Ritter on behalf of the State Department on Aging

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Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Markley, Representative Wood and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Betsy Ritter. I am the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging. I am here today to offer testimony regarding SB 281: AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES and SB 282: AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE.

Although we believe in the importance of strategic planning for long term care needs, a variety of studies have been conducted over the past decade concerning both of these issues, proposing numerous recommendations. The first major study was submitted in June 2007 and revised in March 2010 - the CT Long-Term Care Needs Assessment prepared by the University of CT Health Center. In addition, the Department of Social Services has contracted with Mercer to conduct long-term care (LTC) demand projections on a town-level, as well as the associated workforce that would be needed. The CT Long Term Care Planning Committee is charged with submitting a comprehensive plan every three years to the General Assembly to establish a long term care system that offers individuals the services and supports of their choice in the least restrictive and most enhancing setting. Finally, the Governor released an initial three-year Strategic Rebalancing Plan in order to address the demand for Medicaid-funded LTC through 2025. As this work is currently being completed, we respectfully suggest that additional studies may be duplicative, and that agency resources can be utilized more effectively in other areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration. As always, I look forward to the opportunity to work together on agency matters as legislation moves forward.