



Testimony of AARP
On H.B. 6716, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO HOME CARE

Aging Committee
February 17, 2015

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with an age 50+ membership of nearly 37 million nationwide, and approximately 600,000 here in Connecticut. AARP helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, family caregiving, and independent living.

AARP strongly supports the proposal outlined in *H.B. No. 6716, AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO HOME CARE*.

H.B. 6716 would expand access to the state-funded Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders and reduce the co-pay from 7% to 6%. The Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders provides vast resources for home health and social services to individuals age 65 and older at risk of institutional care. The program provides services and supports to thousands of frail seniors so they can stay at home—where they want to be. In fact, a recent survey by AARP found that ninety-one percent (91%) of adults 40 and older said it was important to have services to help seniors live independently.

Moreover, the Connecticut Home Care Program provides a cost-effective way to deliver care and stretch limited state resources. That's because the average cost of serving an older adults in the community is only a fraction of the cost Connecticut pays for nursing home care.

AARP supports expanding access to home- and community-supports that provide seniors the opportunity to engage and maintain deep-rooted connections in their local communities. We urge the Committee to support H.B. 6716.

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