CONNECTING GENERATIONS
Under One Roof
THE MARVIN

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**Testimony to the Appropriations Committee**
**Regarding Affordable Senior Housing with Long Term Services and Supports**

**HB 5044**
**An Act Making Adjustments To State Expenditures**
**For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017**

**Submitted by Mary R. Windt, Executive Director**
**The Marvin/Under One Roof in Norwalk**

**February 10, 2016**

On behalf of The Marvin, I would like to submit the following testimony regarding affordable senior housing with services as they are treated in the Governor's proposed adjustments to the state budget.

The Marvin is a unique intergenerational program, providing quality, affordable congregate elderly housing with supportive services and an accredited school readiness child daycare program located in Norwalk, CT. This March is The Marvin's 19th Anniversary. Our 49-unit senior housing property is financed through the low-income housing tax credit program and with a mortgage from CHFA and DOH. The property offers the state's congregate housing for the frail elderly program, which provides service coordination, a daily meal, light housekeeping, wellness programming, emergency transportation and 24-hour on-site staff oversight. For residents with greater needs, the Department of Housing and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders funds assisted living services that are provided through a contracted assisted living service agency with onsite staff.

We believe this model of providing affordable senior housing with services is one of the answers to our state's quest to balance the system of long term services and supports. The Marvin is a model that has been recognized by our national association, LeadingAge and was awarded the 2009 MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing". Connecticut has developed several nationally acclaimed models of senior housing with services including the model of allowing assisted living services funded through the Home Care Program for Elders to be delivered within state congregate and HUD 202 housing sites, and within the four pilot affordable assisted living demonstration sites. The Marvin is a clear model of providing affordable housing with services that not only meets the growing needs of our elderly residents, but also prevents or delays the move to more expensive nursing home care.

We are alarmed to see a threat to the funding for these models of affordable senior housing with services. The threat is in the proposed consolidation of agency operating funds within the Department of Housing which will include *Subsidized Assisted Living Demonstrations, Congregate Facilities Operations Costs,* and *Elderly Congregate Rent Subsidies*. This new consolidated fund would be cut by 5.75% in the proposed adjustments to the budget and that cut would threaten all programs within the fund.

The Marvin was developed and funded pursuant to Section 8-119G of the Connecticut General Statutes. This funding is critical to continue to successfully operate. We therefore are strongly objecting to the potential cuts to these programs as these cuts would threaten this proven successful model of providing affordable housing to aging adults who can then receive affordable services and supports that allow them to continue to live at home as they age. We should be investing in this model, not cutting it.

Thank you for consideration of these submitted comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Windt
Executive Director

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**Affordable Housing Plus Services Case Study**
**Conducted April 2011**
**"The Marvin, Norwalk, CT Tower One/Tower East, New Haven, CT"**
Conducted April 2011 This case study describes the strategies employed by The Marvin and Tower One/Tower East to help support the needs of the properties' older adult residents. The two studies are combined in one document because both properties employ programs funded by the State of Connecticut. An overview is provided first of those state-supported programs and then a study of each property is presented. The studies detail how the strategy evolved, the available services and supports and how they are delivered, and the strategy's perceived successes and challenges..."
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