



# Connecticut

Government Administration & Elections Committee

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Testimony in Support of Raised Senate Bill #104

An Act Establishing the State Civic Network

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of almost 38 million, over 600,000 of whom live right here in Connecticut, which helps people age 50 and up turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, caregiving, consumer protections, affordable utilities, employment security and retirement planning.

AARP CT supports SB #104, An Act Establishing the State Civic Network. The creation of a Connecticut Civic Network stands to benefit all Connecticut citizens. Comprehensive access to multimedia coverage of all state government proceedings, easy cross-reference to testimony and other related public documents, combined with other tools to make that information understandable to members of the public encourages better public understanding of the policy issues facing our state and civic engagement. This in turn allows for better-informed voting, more seasoned advocacy and more productive conversations between legislators and their constituents. The benefits of such a service translate into a healthier representative democracy for us all.

The 50+ demographic is one of the most politically active and civic-minded subsets of our population, one that has long recognized the value of the service that CT-N has provided for nearly 18 years. AARP CT recognizes the rapidly-growing demand for CT-N's coverage of state government proceedings and other programming, and the need to put a structure in place that will allow CT-N to meet that demand in a way that works for all of our citizens.

SB #104 takes the best of what was a very good idea and ahead of its time back in 1999 and lays the foundation for a service that will meet the needs of Connecticut citizens of every age for years to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.