



# Connecticut

Human Services Committee

March 3, 2016

Testimony in Support of Raised Senate Bill #280

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN'S  
NOTICE TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

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On behalf of AARP Connecticut and approximately 600,000 members in the state, AARP is pleased to offer comments on Raise Senate Bill #280. If passed, this bill has the potential to improve consumer notification and empower consumer choice, when a nursing facility intends to terminate services or substantially decrease bed capacity.

Most long-term services and supports (LTSS) consumers, regardless of age or disability, want to direct how and where they receive services, in order to maintain their dignity and maximize their independence. Proper notification and communication is the foundation of consumer choice. And, understanding your rights is especially critical under times of stress or uncertainty. That's why AARP support the goal outlined in Raise Senate Bill #280.

Residents of nursing facilities should be protected from undue hardship and stress when they are transferred in the event of a facility closing or other circumstance. This can be a traumatic time and proper disclosure about a resident's rights and opportunities is critical.

AARP urges the Department of Aging and LTC Ombudsman to craft a consumer notification letter that appropriately informs patients of their rights, provides assurances that they have options and choices, and to the extent possible, encourages them to consider the full array of options—including returning to the community—should they choose.

AARP believes that consumers, to the extent they are capable, or their caregivers or legal representatives, should have the option to make decisions about the LTSS they receive and manage their own services and supports. We look forward to working with the Human Services Committee, the State Department on Aging and other stakeholders to develop a consumer friendly notification process to protect and empower consumer choice.