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*Making Great Communities Happen*  
**Connecticut Chapter of the  
American Planning Association**

Testimony Regarding the Governor's Budget Recommendation on  
Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging  
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

February 19, 2016

Submitted by Emily Hultquist, President of the

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Governor's House Bill 5044, *An Act Making Adjustment to State Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017*. My name is Emily Hultquist, and I'm President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA), the national organization of professional planners and residents involved in planning for our nation's communities. CCAPA is dedicated to advancing the practice of good planning in Connecticut by providing its members with up-to-date information on current planning issues and techniques, building public and political awareness of the importance and benefits of good planning, and bringing together CCAPA's diverse membership together from across the state to share experiences with colleagues.

CCAPA is a proud partner in the livable communities initiative. Through the passage of Public Act 13-109, the Connecticut General Assembly charged the Commission on Aging with spearheading the ongoing work of supporting and honoring residents' desire to age in place and in community. Livable communities are places that foster independence across the lifespan. They offer affordable, accessible and diverse housing and transportation options; places and opportunities for connection and community engagement; and robust health and social services. Ultimately, they save

the state money and generate local revenue. And done well, livable communities enhance the quality of life for all ages, create tremendous economic value in towns and cities, promote healthy living and support environmental sustainability.

In just over two short years, since the initiative's inception, the Commission on Aging has cultivated more than 50 strategic organizational partners, convened two annual Partners Summits at the State Capitol, provided local consultative support to at least 20 Connecticut towns, and identified and profiled livability ideas and innovations happening across the state. The Commission on Aging also facilitated a cost-saving partnership with CCAPA and the Capitol Region Council of Governments to commission a necessary statewide livability survey, whose purpose was to learn what residents have to say about how communities can best prepare to support residents across the lifespan. The survey resulted in comprehensive reports on housing and transportation, which have provided critical data to planners, transportation officials and other policymakers, working to plan Connecticut communities that can support an increasingly older and longer-lived population.

The Commission on Aging was also instrumental in informing international efforts. The World Health Organization recently released *Measuring the Age-Friendliness of Cities: A Guide to Using Core Indicators*. The Commission on Aging was among the team of international experts to provide comments on the draft. The Commission also provided consultative support to DataHaven, who on behalf of the City of New Haven was invited as one of 15 urban areas worldwide to pilot the WHO indicator guide. The Commission's contributions to this guide and other nationally recognized planning tools, adapted by the Commission for specific use in Connecticut, have been helpful and important to Connecticut's planning community at this critical demographic juncture in the state's history. That older adults comprise an increasingly large proportion of the population is a new, long-term reality—one that Commission is helping planners recognize town by town.

And the Commission on Aging rises to fill this profound need—helping municipal leaders ready for changing Connecticut communities—all with available appropriations. On behalf of the CCAPA, I urge your continued support of the highly efficient Commission on Aging, leading to ensure that Connecticut can optimally support its residents across the lifespan.