

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
2/19/2016**

**Testimony in Support of
Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging
Dianne Stone, Newington Senior and Disabled Center**

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and esteemed Members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Dianne Stone. I am the Director of the Newington Senior and Disabled Center and I am here today to express my strong support the Legislative Commission on Aging.

The Commission on Aging has played a major role in virtually every initiative in this state that involves older adults. They have provided the leadership that has allowed our state to move forward with important initiatives like Money Follows the Person, and they continue to lead efforts to streamline Medicaid, saving the State millions of dollars. They provide the leadership and staffing in the State's efforts to deal with critical issues like preventing and addressing elder abuse, the rights of grandparents and aging in place, creating a better Connecticut for all residents. They have done research that has been the foundation for policy and for programs.

From my perspective the Commission on Aging has been an invaluable support to municipal services. They have been the voice for our issues and a source of credible information and guidance. And now, as the older adult population is growing and more people are able to continue to live at home in our Towns and Cities, the Commission is leading the way toward creating livable communities. They are engaging philanthropy, business, state and local government in a way that we, as senior centers and municipal agents, simply cannot. And this work has just begun.

The legislative Commission on Aging provides us, and you, with expertise in public policy and research the CoA serves as staff to the legislature, as a leader in the field of aging, and as a voice of older people.

On behalf of the older adults in the Town thank you for your continued support of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging as an remarkably effective independent office representing older adults across our state.