



Testimony to the Housing Committee

February 23, 2016

Regarding

SB 150, An Act Concerning Security Deposits for Aging-Restricted Public Housing

SB 157, An Act Concerning Adequate and Safe Housing for the Elderly and Younger Persons with Disabilities

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

LeadingAge Connecticut is a statewide membership organization of 130 not-for-profit organizations representing the entire field of aging services and including not-for-profit providers of affordable senior housing. Our housing members are sponsored by religious, fraternal, and community organizations that are committed to providing quality housing and services to their residents. We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments on two of the bills that are before you today.

SB 150, An Act Concerning Security Deposits for Aging-Restricted Public Housing

While we appreciate the intent of this proposal, we feel that it may cause additional burden to the housing entities. Right now any person over 62 does not have to give more than one month's security deposit. Allowing that to be paid over twelve months would be challenging in that it would complicate the calculation of the interest to be paid on the deposit. In addition, damage can happen fairly quickly and not having the full security deposit in the bank could be problematic. We therefore cannot support this proposal.

SB 157, An Act Concerning Adequate and Safe Housing for the Elderly and Younger Persons with Disabilities

Affordable housing should be available to all those who need it and as a state we should strive to meet that need. There is currently a growing need for affordable housing with long term services and supports both for older adults and for persons with disabilities. LeadingAge Connecticut supports this bill before you today which would assess that need and produce a report that could guide and encourage future affordable housing development with services. I would also encourage including the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services in the study as this department oversees many of the services provided to older adults in affordable housing.

LeadingAge Connecticut is a strong proponent of the model of linking affordable senior housing with long term services and supports; a model that enables older adults to remain in the community and to age in place. We believe this model is one of the answers to our state's quest to balance the system of long term services and supports. Connecticut has already developed several nationally acclaimed models of senior housing with services including allowing assisted living services funded through the Home Care Program for Elders to be delivered within our state congregate and HUD 202 housing sites, and within the four pilot affordable assisted living demonstration sites. We have excellent models of providing affordable housing with services that we would like to see encouraged and replicated to meet the growing needs of our elderly population.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mag Morelli, President

